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No. 207.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, September 1st, 1881.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OCT 22 1881
RECEIVED

James B. Angell to
the Secretary of State.

Subject.

The Receipt of Despatches.

Synopsis.

Acknowledges the receipt of despatches
Nos. 108. 109. 110. 111. 112. & 113.

No 207.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, September 1st, 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,

Sir:—

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches numbered 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, and 113.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
James B. Angell

No. 208. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States
Peking, September 1st, 1881.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OCT
24
1881
RECEIVED

James B. Angell to
the Secretary of State.

Subject.

Salary Account of Acting Interpreter.

Synopsis.

Forwards a statement of the Acting Interpreter's Salary Account from 10. March, to June 30th, 1881.

No 208. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, September 1st, 1884.

Honorable James G. Blaine.
Secretary of State.

Sir:—

Referring to your instruction No 106. of June 20th last, approving my appointment of Mr. Taylor, as acting Interpreter to this Legation, I have now the honor to forward to you the Account for his salary from March 10th, the date of his entrance upon his duties, to June 30th, 1884. for the amount of which I have drawn upon you in the usual way.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

James B. Angell

Enclosure

Enclosure.

1. Account for the salary of Acting Interp

No. 209

One enclosure.

Legation of the United States
Peking, Sept. 5, 1881.



James B. Angell
to
the Secretary of State,

Subject.
Custom Documents.

Synopsis.
Forwards 2 copies of Customs Gazette.

No. 209. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States
Peking, Sept. 5th, 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine.
Secretary of State.

Sir:—

I am sending to you by this day's mail, under separate cover, two copies of the "Custom Gazette April—June 1881." as published by the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant.

James R. Angell

Enclosure— as above—

File

Let, to Sec.

No. 210.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, September 12th, 1881.

DEPARTMENT NOV 4 1881 RECEIVED

James B. Angell to the Secretary of State

Subject.

The U.S. Diplomatic and Consular service in China.

Synopsis.

Mr. Angell makes certain suggestions having in view the improvement of the service. He speaks of the meagreness of the appropriations for the Legation. The over-burdened condition of the Shanghai Office, and the need of American Interpreters in China; and inquires about the Regulations for the temporary appointment of Interpreters.

No. 210.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, September 12th, 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine.
Secretary of State,

Sir:—

Before I leave Peking, I desire respectfully to submit to the Department a few suggestions concerning the needs of our Diplomatic and Consular service in China,

1. The Secretary and Interpreter of this Legation should have some allowance made for clerical assistance. The labors of the post are onerous. The files of the Department show how voluminous are the despatches transmitted to Washington. But the correspondence with

with the eight Consulates, which is not sent home is also very considerable. The Secretary and Interpreter has for some time employed a copyist to assist him and paid him himself. I think an appropriation ~~of fifty~~ dollars a month is really needed.

2. The appropriation for the Contingent Expenses of this Legation is too small to pay the sum actually needed to keep the archives in good condition and to meet the necessary expenses for postage, newspapers and stationery. I know well the danger of having too large an appropriation for contingencies. But I am certain that it is too small here. It should be larger by at least a hundred dollars a year, and I think a thousand dollars a year might

(safely

safely be appropriated.

3. Though I have had no formal complaint from the Consul General of the burdens of his office, I am of the opinion that a modification of the organization at Shanghai would conduce to the public good. I believe that the office of Consul-General is overtaxed with work.

By official returns of that office I see that for the year ending March 31st, 1881, the number of dispatches received at that office was 862, and the number sent was 957. True a considerable proportion of these dispatches call for little more than clerical work. But still it remains the fact that the correspondence of the office is heavy.

The judicial duties are also

very

very considerable. A return made to me at my request shows that from April 1st, 1880. to September 1st, 1881, a period of 18. months the cases brought before the Consul General were as follows:—

Civil 26.
Criminal 9.
Summary Police cases 38.
Inquests 2.
Probate Cases 9.
total 84.

Some of these cases were of large importance. The business of Shanghai is so great that cases of considerable magnitude, requiring time for the investigation of them must always be arising.

The regular Consular business must of course always be heavy and

(must

must have prompt attention.

It has seemed to me well worthy the consideration of the Department whether Congress should not be asked to make provision for a paid Vice Consul as well as a Consul-General at Shanghai. In that case the Consul-General, who should always be a man of legal training, should retain the supervision of the Consulates and discharge the judicial duties now devolving on him and the Vice-Consul should be charged with the Consular duties at the port of Shanghai.

4. I most earnestly repeat the recommendations of several of my predecessors that some systematic method to provide our Consulates

(with

with Interpreters be adopted. The Department has in its archives lamentable proofs of the disastrous consequences of employing Chinese as Interpreters. We cannot expect to have Americans give themselves up to the prolonged study required to fit them for interpreting, unless we hold out to them some suitable inducements. It is a piece of sheer good luck that we have at present even two or three good American interpreters. As it is, the important post of Tientsin has none, and is obliged to depend on the accomodating spirit of a young American merchant, who gives some of his spare hours to the assistance of the Consul.

The wisest course would doubtless be to offer salaries, which will induce young men to choose the service as

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a career, and to encourage them to remain by promoting some of them from time to time to Consulates. This plan keeps the Consulates of the British, French, and Germans well furnished with educated and trustworthy interpreters. I know of no other plan which promises so good results.

5. I think the Regulations for the temporary appointment of interpreters to the Consulates might be made a little more clear. I have not received the Consular Regulations of 1881. But Mr. Consul Gueck, writing to me on the subject of appointment, quotes from them § 114. as follows:—

"The nomination for the temporary "appointment of an interpreter or "marshal to a Consulate, in the case "of a vacancy, should be made by the "Consul, or by the Vice Consul if he is

is in charge, with the approval of the" Consul-General, if there be one having" supervisory power; otherwise with" the approval of the Diplomatic" Representative."

Is it meant that the "approval" of the Consul General is a temporary appointment, or is the Minister, as the highest Representative of the President, to make the temporary appointment? I think the latter. But the language might well make this more clear.

I wish in conclusion to bear witness to the fidelity, intelligence, and efficiency of most of our Consuls now in China. On the whole I think that during the past year our service has not suffered seriously from comparison with that of any

one

one of the great European powers.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

James B. Bryll

File

No. 211.



Legation of the United States.
Peking, September 14th, 1881.

James G. Blaine to
the Secretary of State.

Subject.

The Receipt of Despatches.

Synopsis.

Instructions Nos. 114. 115. & 116. have been received.

No. 211.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, September 14th, 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,

Sir:—

I have had the honor to receive your despatches numbered 114. 115. and 116. with their enclosures.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant.

James B. Angell

File

Ref: Do.

No. 212.

Three Enclosures.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
NOV 1881
RECEIVED

Legation of the United States.
Peking, September 14th, 1881.

James B. Angell to
the Secretary of State.

PRINTED
OCTOBER 10 1881

Subject.

The Transit Pass Question.

Synopsis.

Forwards Documents which give the history of the negotiations pursued by the German Minister with the Foreign Office.

No. 212. Three Enclosures.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 14th, 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State.

Sir:—

Since I wrote my No. 151. of April 30th on Transit Passes Outwards the Diplomatic Body have considered the subject in several conferences, and Mr. Von Brandt, the German Minister, has most industriously carried on the negotiations with the Tsung li Yamen. We seemed to be on the very verge of a tolerably satisfactory agreement with the Foreign Office, when suddenly the Chinese Ministers came forward with so important and unacceptable modifications that the Diplomatic

Body

Body at their meeting of July 11th were agreed that it was useless to prolong negotiations on such a basis. As some of the Ministers have been absent from the capital during the summer, negotiations have been suspended for some weeks. It seems proper therefore that I should report what has been attempted since April. I cannot do this better than by enclosing a Memorandum, which 1/212
Mr. von Brandt submitted July 6th with a draft of Provisional Rules on Transit Passes Outwards. The Foreign Representatives were prepared to adopt this with but slight modifications or additions, and it was supposed the Tsung li Yamên would agree to them. The Memorandum gives a brief review of the negotiations from the beginning. I enclose also 2/212
the

the Provisional Rules. I do not deem it necessary to give a detailed account of the discussions in the conferences and of the various steps by which the Rules were brought into their form as here given.

Mr. von Brandt's communication

3/212. (confidential) of July 10th gives so fully the particulars of his interview with the Foreign Office that I need not dwell upon it. You will observe that the Tsung-li Yamen insisted on two concessions, which we could not think of making. 1st Foreign goods admitted free of duty shipped coastwise should pay coast-trade duty. 2d Goods manufactured from native produce bought at the port should be subjected to the same restrictions as goods manufactured from produce

brought

brought down under transit pass. ~
We believe that there is no ground
in the treaties on which either of
these claims can rest, and as the ~
Tsung li Yamen insisted on both of
them, the negotiations were necessarily
brought to a standstill.

The Diplomatic Body have
recently had further conference on
the subject and have decided to ~
renew the effort to gain the assent
of the Yamen to the Provicional Rules.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

James R. Russell

Enclosures.

1. Mr. Von Brandt's Memorandum of
July 6th, 1881.
2. Draft of Provicional Rules.

3

3. Mr. von Brandt's Memorandum (confidential) of July 10, 1881, (with enclosure of Tsungli Yamen's proposal)

Mr. von Brandt has the honor to lay before his Colleagues the final result of his negotiations with the Tsung-li-Yamen on the subject of the treatment of Chinese produce in the hands of foreigners.

Before proceeding to review the scheme now before his Colleagues, Mr. von Brandt begs to draw their attention to the purposes for which the negotiations were begun and to the different stages through which they have passed.

The aim of the foreign Representatives in bringing this question to the notice of the Yamen, was to do away as much as possible with the complaints raised on the one hand by foreign merchants on account of the failure of the Chinese authorities honestly and completely to carry out the treaty provisions; and, on the other, by the Chinese Government against abuses and frauds, which it pretended to be perpetrated by foreigners under cover of the treaty provisions.

This

This last complaint has been one of long standing on the part of the Chinese Government. Several times, in 1872. (on March 23rd and again on December 25th) and in 1877 (on January 29th) proposals to remedy the existing abuses had been laid before the foreign Representatives by the Yamen, without, however, bringing about the desired end, similar attempts had been made with no better success by some of the local Chinese authorities until at last rules for the issue and use of transit passes outwards were arbitrarily introduced and enforced by the Chinese local authorities at some of the open ports, viz: at Chinkiang, Pakhoi and Hoihow, while a similar attempt at Shanghai proved abortive.

Though no objections could be raised against some of the provisions contained in these rules, others were contrary to existing treaty stipulations and oppressive, while the mode of their introduction without the consent of the treaty powers having been first obtained, gave rise to grave apprehensions.

To

To do away with these local regulations and to replace them by a general and uniform rule for all the open ports was therefore the first object to be kept in view, while it seemed not less desirable and necessary to facilitate by the adoption of such uniform rules the bona fide introduction of the transit pass system into those Southern provinces, where, to the knowledge of all, it had not yet found any practical application.

It seemed further necessary to make use of the present opportunity to remove some complaints, repeatedly pressed upon the attention of the foreign Representatives by the illegal action of Chinese local authorities, viz:—

1. The levy of export duty on, by treaty, duty free native produce when carried coastwise;
2. The imposition of the payment of inland taxes on native produce bought at the port, when exported, and
3. The imposition of the payment of inland taxes on goods manufactured at the port from native produce bought

there,

there, when exported

Anx I — It was from these points of view and with these intentions that the first draft of the proposals to be laid before the Yamen by Mr. von Brandt in the name of his Colleagues, was discussed and adopted by the foreign Representatives there resident at Peking.

See Mr. Seward's N°673.

The draft was handed to the Chinese Ministers on May 18th, 1881. when they declared that as far as they could see, there was nothing in the proposals laid before them to which the Tsung li Yamen could not assent, but that they would have to take the opinion of the two Superintendents of Trade on the subject.

An. II — It was only on September 27th that the Ministers came forward with counter proposals, the chief features of which were, that in Rule I, the provision for a joint investigation in cases of fine and confiscation (Art. 9.) was omitted, while Rule II was completely (eliminated

See Mr. Angell's N°62.

6

eliminated under pretext that the treaties made no mention of duty free native produce.

In Rule III. with regard to the proposal that goods manufactured at the port from native produce bought there should, on exportation, not be called upon to pay any other duty or tax than the export duty, the Yamen claimed that the native produce before being submitted to any manufacturing process, ought to undergo inspection by the Customs authorities.

Some of the minor changes introduced by the Yamen in their counter proposals were accepted by the foreign Representatives in a conference held among themselves on October 25th. while the changes above mentioned in Rules I. II. and III. were rejected and the former tenor either maintained or only altered in so far as to render it more precise.

Art. III. This new set of proposals was laid before the Yamen on October 29th. On November 19th the Ministers returned a verbal answer that they were willing to agree to Rule I Art. 9. as well as to the remainder of the Rule, but that in view of the strong objections raised by the provincial authorities

they

they could accept neither Rule II. nor Rule III.
see as above N°. 52. they proposed therefore to omit these two sections.

Ann. IV. The answer returned to this, first verbally on the same day and in writing on Nov. 26th, was that, the aim of the measures proposed being to do away as much as possible with all causes of complaint and irritation, the foreign Representatives had to insist upon the acceptance by the Yamen of Rules II and III, without which any arrangement would be incomplete and unacceptable to them.
See Mr. Angell's N°. 96.

Ann. V. On their answer of December 5th the Ministers of the Yamen while pointing out the discrepancies existing in the list of duty free goods as contained in the Treaties, objected to the introduction of Rule II. into the arrangement on the ground that as it was intended only to re assert a right granted already by the former treaties its repetition seemed superfluous.
With regard to Rule III the Ministers repeated their proposal of an inspection of the native goods bought at the port and intended for manufacturing purposes.

Ann.

Annex VI. In a note dated January 9th, 1881.
Mr. von Brandt replied to this with the
concurrence of his Colleagues, that the foreign
Representatives were willing to recognize that
the list of duly free goods inserted in the
treaties, was not as clear and distinct as might
be desired; they therefore proposed to the
Yamen to accept in lieu of Trade Rule 2. or
No. 161. another version of it which would do away
with the discrepancies complained of. With
regard to Rules II. and III. the foreign
Representatives repeated their former arguments.
Annex VII. The reply of the Ministers dated February
9th, 1881. raised some further questions with
regard to the list of duly free goods, while
See No. 157. maintaining their former position on the
other subjects.

Owing to the absence of the first
interpreter of the German Legation it was only
on June 2nd that Mr. von Brandt had an
interview with the Tsung li Yamen; on this
occasion he insisted on the necessity of
settling all the pending questions at the same
time and declared that, though he was not
authorized to speak in the name of his
Colleagues

colleagues, he for himself personally could not but regard the acceptance by the Yamen of some stipulations similar to those contained in Rules II. and III as the conditio sine qua non of the conclusion of any arrangement whatever. In the ensuing discussion the Ministers of the Yamen abandoned most of their objections formerly raised against Rules II. and III. and they promised to give their best attention to the proposals before them.

Annex VIII. On June 9th they presented two counter-proposals for Rules II. and III, which while not yet being quite satisfactory in all their details, showed a decided progress compared with the former attitude assumed by the Ministers.

Annex IX. At a conference on June 15th the discussion resulted in a new proposal by the Yamen, which, coupled with some verbal declarations by the Ministers and the assurance of their readiness to repeat them in writing seemed to do away with the principal difficulty encountered until then in the course of the negotiations.

At

At another Conference on June 25th new difficulties arose however with regard to the treatment of duty free native produce shipped coastwise, notwithstanding some further concessions on this point on the part of the foreign negotiator. His Excellency Wang, who throughout all the conferences had been the spokesman of his Colleagues, stated that the Yamên did neither know nor understand the reason which had prompted his former Colleague, Shen, to accept the proposal of a new list of duty free goods; that the Yamen would prefer by far to leave matters as they were, but that in any case if the revised list was to be maintained some changes, ~~some~~ changes ought to be introduced with regard to the items "household and ship stores," by either restricting their exoneration from duty to foreign stores only, or by adding some characters in the Chinese text which would be indicative of small quantities of such stores only being admissible free of duty. Mr. von Brandt being unable to agree to these proposals, the Conference

came

came to an end without an understanding on these points being arrived at.

A further conference on July 1st between Mr. Arendt (the German Interpreter) and the Yamen brought no better results; on the contrary the opposition of the Ministers to Rule II took a still further form and they asked for the insertion of a clause stating that the goods mentioned as duty free were so only when imported for personal use.

They conceded however on this day another important point, proposed to them for the first time on June 25th viz:—that all claims now pending under one of the heads contained in the rules under consideration should be settled in accordance with the principles laid down in them.

On July 3rd, Their Excellencies Wang, Mao, Ching Lien, Ch'ung Li and Hsia continuing to offer the same resistance as formerly to the application of the treaty provisions on duty free goods, as understood by the Foreign Representatives, Mr. von Brandt declared to them that the

acceptance

acceptance of the principle put forward in Rule II. was a conditio sine qua non for the continuation of the negotiations and that unless the Ministers were ready to agree to it, he would prefer to break off all further pourparles on the question now before them. This brought matters to a climax, but it was not without still much further discussion that the Ministers agreed to Rule II as it now stands.

Mr. X. With regard to the annexed draft, the result of long and tedious negotiations, Mr. von Brandt has the honor to lay the following remarks before his Colleagues.

Rule I. for the issue and surrender of transit passes outwards, may be considered as nearly entirely satisfactory. While doing away with the just complaints of the Yamen by reasonably limiting the time within which use has to be made of the transit passes and certificates or within which native produce brought to a port under transit certificate has to be exported, the uniform treatment of this question by the local authorities which is to be

one

one of the results of the arrangement will help in bringing about the practical application of the transit pass system in all the provinces of the Empire. At the same time the joint investigation in all cases of confiscation and fine, instituted by Article 9 of this Rule will very materially contribute to render the settlement of claims more easy and rapid and thereby diminish the chances of foreigners having to suffer from the illegal action of the local authorities.

The only not quite satisfactory point in this part of the arrangement seems to be in Art 5. paragraph 2, where the Yamen will only consent to grant one months extension of time in case the original six months should prove insufficient for the purposes of exportation. It may however be safely assumed that 7 months in all will meet the requirements of every case that will present itself. The reason given by the Yamen for their desire to limit thus the powers of the Customs authorities is, that the principal rule

itself

itself would be nullified if the Customs were at liberty to extend ad libitum the time originally named for exportation.

Rule II, for the treatment of duty free native produce and foreign imports, is in its present form very nearly a reproduction of Trade Rule II. of the treaties with an addition referring to the payment of coast-trade duty by duty free native produce. The list of duty free goods has been revised and rectified, where its provisions were in contradiction with the tariffs and slightly modified in so far as a number of less important articles were, at the desire of the Chinese Ministers, made duty free only when of foreign origin.

The clause giving the Customs power to act according to their judgment in the case of household stores and shipstores when being imported in excessive quantities does little more than re-affirm the right which they have undoubtedly always possessed to protect the revenue against fraud. The clause may therefore be regarded as superfluous, but as the Ministers seem

to

to attach great value to it, it may perhaps be inserted without any apprehension of complications arising through it. From every other point of view Rule II as it reads now is by far preferable to the former Trade rule 2. as it finally does away with the objections constantly raised by the Chinese Government, that only foreign articles ought to be considered duly free and even those only when imported for personal use.

Rule III. for the exportation of goods bought or manufactured in the port, is on the whole very satisfactory. The changes which were introduced into it in the course of the negotiations can hardly be said to have taken away from its thoroughness; on the contrary, the present text appears to be even more to the point than the former one, as instead of only asserting in general terms certain principles it condemns expressly the use of those illegal exactions by the Chinese local officials, which gave rise to so many complaints. The obligation imposed on the foreign merchant to furnish the customs with a statement that the

goods

goods to be exported by him were bought at the port, seems little dangerous hedged in as it is by the positive assurances that nothing more shall be asked, while the previous inspection of native produce intended to undergo some manufacturing process ought hardly to give rise to suspicion. This part of the agreement has besides the advantage of giving a legal status to the manufacturing of goods at the port out of native produce brought there under transit pass which until now could be done only with the tacit acquiescence of the Customs.

All the rules are to be provisional, and in force only for a few years, after the expiration of which they may continue so, if they give satisfaction, until formally denounced by one of the contracting parties. With regard to the date of their introduction, it seems best to put them in force provisionally, and, pending the approval of the Governments of the Treaty powers, without any further delay. Not only would the existing abuses thereby be remedied immediately and a cause of much irritation and complaint be removed,

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but the time which must necessarily elapse between the date of the provisional putting in force of these measures and that of the arrival of the approval of the Home Governments will give an opportunity to judge of the good faith of the Chinese officials and the working of the new rules. It might perhaps even be well to recommend to the home Governments to grant their approval of the measures only on the condition of their having worked satisfactorily in the meantime.

Peking, July 6th, 1881.

Annex X

Provisional Rules

I

For the issue and surrender of Transit Passes (outwards)

Art. I.

These rules coming into force on the ____ day ____ moon ____ year of Kwang Hsü all outward Transit Passes issued before this date shall, after the expiration of one year, if the merchant has not (within that time) reported for examination to the Customs Authorities by whom the passes were issued, the native produce stated in the pass as to be bought and the corresponding Transit Certificate, be forthwith cancelled by the Superintendent of Customs and the corresponding transit certificates recalled and all goods which the holders of such cancelled passes may attempt to bring down under them will be confiscated.

All outward Transit Passes issued subsequently to the ____ day ____ moon ____ year of Kwang Hsü, and not used within one year from date of issue will

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be cancelled at the expiration of such year.

Art. 2.

Henceforward all Outward Transit Passes,* which may not have been availed of for the purchase of produce within one year from the date of issue will be forthwith cancelled by the Superintendent of Customs and the corresponding Transit Certificates recalled; and all goods which the holders of such cancelled passes may attempt to bring down under them will be confiscated.

In any case of loss of a transit pass by theft or otherwise, the merchant to whom it was issued must report the loss at once to the Customs of the port, that the pass may be cancelled and the corresponding transit certificate recalled. For any unlawful use of such cancelled transit pass after the loss has been reported, the original holder shall not be held responsible.

No further passes will be issued to a merchant, whose passes have had to be cancelled, their time having expired, or who, in opposition to this rule, does not

* Styled in Treaties Memoranda.

not surrender his passes.

Art, 3

Produce purchased under Transit Pass must arrive at the barrier nearest the port within six months (one year at Tientsin) from the date of the exchange of the Transit Pass for a Transit certificate; in default of this the goods will be liable to confiscation.

Should, however, produce be detained en route, either by the action of barrier or other officials, by force majeure, or by unforseen accidents, such as floods, rebels, or the like, and be unable in consequence to arrive within the time allowed, the circumstances of such detention must be reported at once to the authorities on the spot, and to the Superintendent of Customs at the port, who will grant such an extension of time as the circumstances of the case may require. The goods meanwhile will not be liable to confiscation, unless they fail to arrive at the port within the extended time allowed.

Art. 4.

On the arrival of the produce at the barrier

barrier nearest the port, or, where there is no further barrier, on the shortest and most direct line between the one at which the Transit Certificate was issued and the port, at the Custom House, an application giving the full particulars of the packages and their contents must be sent in to the Commissioner of Customs, who will issue a permit to allow the goods so declared to pass the last barrier. The produce on arriving at the port must be brought direct to the Customs jetty for examination and payment of Transit dues, which being done the goods may be stored in the merchants godown. Any merchant failing to comply with this rule the goods will be liable to confiscation.

In case of alleged damage and deterioration of the goods <u>en route</u>, the Customs on the application of the merchant, will inspect the goods and if the damage etc, be proved, grant a proportionate diminution of the transit dues.

Art. 5

Produce brought from the interior under Transit pass must be exported to a foreign port or to another treaty port for reshipment

reshipment to a foreign port within six months from the date of its arrival at the port. If the produce be not exported within the said period, the merchant shall pay to the Customs a sum equal to two and a half times the export duty and be released from the obligation to export.

The Customs Authorities shall be at liberty to grant an extension of the time for reshipment, of one month in every case where it is proved to their satisfaction, that reshipment within the prescribed time will be impossible.

When the produce is shipped to another Treaty Port for subsequent reshipment to a foreign country, the merchant must produce a certificate from the Customs of the other port to the effect that the goods have been shipped to a foreign country within twelve months of their arrival in that port; or, in default, in addition to forfeiting the half duty deposited, he should pay to the Customs a sum equal to an additional export duty (so that the whole payment made will be equal to two and a half times the export duty) and be released from the obligation

(to

to export.

Art. 6.

A merchant desirous to repack, prior to shipment the native produce which he has brought down under Transit Pass, must first make application to the Customs, who, having verified the goods, will issue a "Permit to Repack" and will depute an officer to repair to the godown and superintend the repacking.

Any unauthorized repacking of goods, or willful alteration of their condition by the substitution or addition of other goods will render them liable to confiscation.

Art. 7.

In cases of alleged damage and deterioration in intrinsic value, sustained by goods while at the Port, the Customs, on the application of the merchant, will depute an officer to examine the goods and appraise the actual amount of damage sustained. A deduction in the amount of export duty payable will be made in proportion to the ascertained damage, and should the merchant desire

to

to be released from his obligation to export such damaged goods, his obligation will be cancelled on his paying to the Customs a sum equal to two and a half times the diminished export duty.

Art. 8.

Should a merchant be about to give up his business and leave the port, he shall return to his Consul for immediate cancellation all Transit Passes which have been taken out by him and not yet used. Should there be at the time of his closing business any goods which have bought in the interior under Transit Pass or Passes taken out by him, but which have not yet arrived at the port, or which are awaiting shipment to a foreign country, at this or another treaty port, the persons to whom such goods or the disposition thereof may be transferred will be held responsible for the observance of these rules.

When transferring such goods the merchant shall report the nationality and the name of the merchant to whom the goods are transferred, to the Consul, by whom they will be communicated to the Superintendent

of

of Customs to be placed on record, in order that the merchant may not throw off any responsibility afterwards.

Art. 9.

In all cases in which under these rules goods are liable to confiscation and the whole or some part of them is not forthcoming, the person in default is liable for the goods not produced.

Art. 10.

In all cases of fine or confiscation arising out of these Rules, the same procedure will be followed, which is laid down in the Rules for joint investigation in cases of confiscation and fine by the Customs Authorities, of the 7th year of Tung chih. (1868).

If a fine awarded remains unpaid no new Transit Passes will be issued to the merchant who is in default, and all Passes already taken out by him may be cancelled by the Superintendent and the corresponding Transit Certificates recalled.

II

For the treatment of duty free foreign imports

imports and native produce.

The following goods shall be duly free.

Of foreign manufacture or origin	Of foreign or native manufacture or origin
Coins	Gold & silver in bullion
Confectionery	Biscuits
Clothing	Preserved meats & vegetables
Candles	Cheese
Tobacco	Soap
Cigars	Charcoal
Butter	Firewood
Flour	Household stores
Indian meal	Ship stores
Sago	Personal Baggage
Plated ware	Cutlery
Jewellery	
Perfumery	
Wine Beer & Spirits	
Stationery	
Carpeting	
Druggeting	
Glass & crystal ware	
Medicines unless specially mentioned in the tariff	

The

The above enumerated articles are free from duty. With regard however to the two items "Household stores" and "Ship stores" if their quantity, as to weight or number of packages, should be excessive, the Customs Authorities shall, as heretofore, be at liberty to act after their best judgment according to the merits of each case.

Whenever any native produce declared to be duty free, is shipped, it is to be shipped accordingly exempt from tariff export duty; when relanded it is exempt from tariff import duty, but it has to pay a coast trade duty, the amount of which is declared to be 2½ per cent ad valorem.

Duty free goods of foreign manufacture or origin are exempt from import and coast trade duty, but if they are transported into the interior, they shall, with the exception of personal baggage, gold and silver bullion and foreign coins pay a transit duty at the rate of 2½ per cent ad valorem.

A freight or part freight of duty free commodities (personal baggage, gold and silver bullion, and foreign coins excepted)

(will

will render the vessel carrying them, though no other cargo be on board, liable to tonnage dues.

Rule III.

For the exportation of goods bought or manufactured in the port.

Art. I.

Native merchandise bought at a port is to pay Tariff Export Duty when shipped, but is not to be called upon to pay any other duty or tax whatsoever. When native produce is to be exported — with the exception, however, of native produce brought down from the interior of the country under transit pass, that is to say, as regards such native produce as has been purchased at the port, merely a declaration shall be required to the effect that it has really not been brought down under transit pass from the Interior. The production of Duty and Lekin Certificates shall not be demanded.

Art. 2.

Whenever native produce, no matter whether arrived under transit pass, or purchased at the port, is to be manufactured within

within the port, notice thereof shall previously be given to the Custom House, whereupon the Customs Authorities will at once despatch an officer to inspect the produce in question, before the commencement of the manufacturing process. Fees for such proceeding shall not be demanded on the part of the Custom house. The goods so manufactured on being shipped, shall have to pay only the tariff export duty applicable to them in their present state, but be exempt from all other taxes (duties and lekin) whatsoever. But if such goods are exported to another Treaty port, they shall be dealt with according to to Regulations in force with regard to native produce.

Clause to be inserted in Rule III, Art 2.

With regard to goods manufactured out of native produce brought down under transit pass to the port, an exception shall be made to the terms of shipment, as mentioned in Rule I, Art. 5. The merchant who, at the expiration of the

(period

period of six months, there indicated, has not yet shipped his goods, and is unwilling to pay the additional duty which would liberate him from the obligation of exporting them, will, however, have to store them in a godown, at his own expense, under the supervision of the Customs Authorities, whence they will not be allowed to be taken out except for the purpose of exportation, it being forbidden, under penalty of confiscation, to sell them in the port where they have been manufactured. He shall however be at liberty to transfer them to another merchant for purposes of exportation, due notice of such transaction being given to the Customs through the Consular Authority of the seller.

All the Rules under heads I. II. & III. to be provisional and to remain in force for a period of four years, after the expiration of this period they shall also continue in force, unless formally denounced by one of the contracting parties, when they shall cease to be

in

in force six months after the date on which notice was given,

All claims now pending under any one of the heads contained in these rules shall be settled in accordance with the principles laid down in them,

Confidential Peking, July 10th, 1881.

His Excellency James B. Angell,
etc. etc. etc.

My dear Colleague,

I regret to have to inform you of the unfavorable turn which my negotiations with the Chinese Ministers on the subject of transit pass outwards etc, have taken at the conference which I had at the Yamen today with Their Excellencies Wang, Ching Lien, Mao, Lin shu, and Hsia.

The Ministers began by stating that further reflection had shown them the necessity of making some changes and additions in the rules now under discussion. Foreign duty free goods shipped coastwise ought to pay coast trade duty and goods manufactured by foreigners

from

from native produce bought at the port or brought down under transit pass ought to be exported within the term of six, resp. seven months mentioned in Rule I. art. 5.

To my objection to the first proposal, that all foreign goods imports could freely and without payment of coast trade duty be transported from one open port to another, the Ministers replied that Trade Rule 2 contained nothing on the subject and that consequently foreign duty free goods were subject to coast trade duty exactly in the same manner as duty free native produce and that, if imports having paid import duty were free from coast trade duty, they were so on account of their having paid some other duty already.

Not thinking it worth my while seriously to discuss such a proposal I

(replied

replied that if such were the views of the Ministers I was quite willing to agree to a rule by which foreign or native goods having paid import or export duty were freed from coast trade duty, while duty free goods of foreign or Chinese origin would have to pay the coast trade duty, equal to 2½ pr. cent.

This for the moment effectually silenced the Ministers on this point.

With regard to the second proposal referring to the time within which goods manufactured at the port from native produce were to be exported, I informed the Ministers that my Colleagues and myself had also felt the necessity of providing some rule on this subject and that I was authorized by my Colleagues to lay before them the enclosed proposal,

which

which we hoped would meet their views, as, while giving sufficient facility for the exportation of manufactures made at the port, it protected effectually the Customs against any attempt at fraud. Regulations on this subject restricting as to the time of exportation could however of course be made only for such goods as had been manufactured at the ports from native produce brought there under transit pass, goods manufactured from produce bought at the port being subject to no such restriction.

This proposal gave rise to a good deal of discussion, the Ministers objecting to the exemption from the restrictions of goods manufactured at the ports from produce bought there, and bringing forward several counter proposals,

in

in which both classes of goods were subject to the same restrictions consisting mostly in a limitation of the time within which they ought to be exported. In the course of this rather desultory conversation I was struck by a casual remark from the Minister Hsia to the effect that foreigners could not be allowed to compete with Chinese in the trade in native produce. The remark not having been addressed directly to me, I did not feel ~~bound~~ called upon to take it up then and there, but it seemed to me to contain the Keynote of the Ministers Yamen's new objections.

Finally after more than two hours discussion in which no progress had been made, the Ministers drafted the enclosed proposal, to which I replied that while I was willing, though seeing very grave objections against any limitation of the time

time for exportation, to lay the part of the proposal referring to such a measure before my Colleagues. I could not do so with any hope of success with the part applying the same restrictions to goods manufactured from produce bought at the port as to those made from produce brought there under transit pass. The Chinese Government had the right to exercise the strictest supervision over native produce brought from the interior under transit pass, such produce having been exempted from the payment of inland taxes under the express condition that it was intended for export, this obligation only to be cancelled in case of the payment of two and a half times the export duty, which payment was to compensate the Chinese Authorities for the loss of the inland taxes.

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With regard however to goods bought at the port, the foreigner was at liberty to deal with them as he liked without any restriction as to time or use, he might export them, sell them to foreigners or natives, manufacture them, forward them for sale to the interior, or destroy them without any hindrance or supervision from the Chinese Authorities, provided he paid on exportation the tariff export duty due on them in the state in which they were at the time of exportation, or, when transported inland all native charges and duties.

To this the Ministers replied that by treaty, foreigners had the right to buy produce either in the interior or at the port for exportation only to some foreign country or some other treaty port, and that they

were

were not allowed to put it to any other use nor sell it at the port unless they paid two and a half times the export duty to the Government to make good the loss of the export duty to which the Chinese Government was entitled on all produce bought by a foreigner either at the port or brought there under transit pass; that Chinese having to pay taxes and duties on all commercial transactions amongst themselves within the ports, foreigners could not be allowed to compete with Chinese under more favorable terms; they would therefore have to pay the same taxes as Chinese if they wished to sell to Chinese produce bought by them at the port.

The Government, however, were willing to make a concession to foreigners

by

by not insisting upon their treaty right as far as native produce in its natural state was concerned, but they must insist upon goods manufactured out of native produce bought at the port, being not disposed of at the port without having paid two and a half times the export duty.

Another hour having passed in useless attempts to prove to the Ministers that the views put forward by them were not only contrary to treaty but also to all sound principles of commerce, I finally declared that unless the Ministers were prepared to accept for the treatment of native produce, in its original state or manufactured, when bought at the port, the Rules as laid down by me in the course of the conversation, I could but consider any further discussion as useless;

the

the Ministers agreed to this adding that the imposition of the same restrictions on goods manufactured from produce bought at the port, as from produce brought there under transit pass was the last word of the Yamen.

Though I do not believe this to be the case I cannot but consider any further discussion, with the Yamen, of the whole question as worse than useless, the general impression I have received from the two last conferences being that while the Yamen will not fail to stretch to the utmost every concession made to it by the foreign Representatives, there seems to be very little chance indeed of seeing the foreign complaints done away with by a strict execution of the new rules agreed upon in their favour. The whole spirit in

in which the whole discussion during the two last conferences has been conducted by the Yamen, has been one eminently unfair, distorting the stipulations of the existing treaties so as to make them seem to uphold the most unjustifiable pretensions and making use of every concession obtained from the foreign Representatives in the course of these negotiations to base some new claim upon it. As an instance of this I may state that the first part of Rule III. 2; "Whenever native produce no matter whether arrived under transit pass or purchased at the port, is to be manufactured within the port, notice thereof shall previously be given to the Custom house." — was brought forward by the Ministers as a proof that the foreign Representatives themselves had recognized that the two kinds of goods ought

ought to be treated alike. If is there proceedings which render any concessions to the Chinese so dangerous. For example, were the foreign Representatives to agree to the treatment of goods bought at the port and manufactured there, as proposed by the Yamen, this concession would be claimed in after days when the arrangement now before us was denounced, as implying the recognition on their part of the claim put forward by the Chinese that foreigners could buy native produce only for purposes of exportation.

In fact the whole action of the Chinese Ministers seemed imbued with that spirit of duplicity which while apparently in favor of the faithful execution of the treaties is in fact only intent upon rendering them illusory,

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a line of policy which to judge from some of the memorials presented to the Throne during the last year would seem to rest upon special imperial instructions. Under these circumstances and with this impression I am unwilling to take the responsibility of recommending to my Colleagues the acceptance as a whole or in part of the arrangement negotiated under their instructions and approval, with the Tsung-li-Yamen. Nothing therefore remains to me but to return to them the powers which they had confided to me and to express to them my most sincere thanks for the forbearance which they have shown in the course of these very lengthy negotiations, and the support I have invariably received from them.

I avail myself, etc.,

(signed) M. von Brandt.

Yamen's proposal of July 10th, 1881.

Native produce brought down under transit pass to the port as well as native produce which has been subjected to a manufacturing process, shall with regard to the term of shipment be dealt with in the manner set forth in the above stipulations; as, however, native produce bought at the port, when it is subjected to a manufacturing process, cannot be put on the same level with native produce, which, without having been subjected to such a process, is directly exported, so that cases may arise in which the term of six months, fixed in Art. 5. might not be sufficient; the Customs Taotai shall, if the circumstances justify it, have the right to extend the term of shipment, in such a way, however, that the whole term conceded shall not exceed a period of ____ months. As regards native produce bought at the port and goods manufactured there out of native produce if at the

expiration

expiration of the six monthly term they have not yet been exported, notice thereof shall be given to the Customs; who will thereupon inspect them and put them under official lock, from where they shall not be taken out except for the purpose of exportation. A sale of them at the port is not permitted, under the penalty of confiscation. If any one of the above categories of goods are reimported into another treaty port, they shall be dealt with in accordance with the regulations in force for native produce

Mr. Cridler

No. 213. Two Enclosures.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
NOV 14 1881
RECEIVED

Legation of the United States.
Peking, September 15th, 1881.

James B. Angell to
the Secretary of State.

Subject.
The Attack on the President.

Synopsis.
Forwards correspondence with Prince Kung in relation to the attempt on the life of the President.

No. 213. Two Enclosures.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, September 15th, 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,

Sir:—

On receiving your despatch
No. 111. of July 11th, concerning the
attempt on the life of the President,
I sent to Prince Kung a communication
1/213 (copy enclosed) announcing the sad
event and also the gratification
afforded you by the sympathy expressed
by the Chinese Ministers.

I have received from His Imperial
2/213 Highness a reply, which I enclose,
expressing the deep solicitude which
the painful tidings have caused him,
and the earnest hope for the

Presidents

President's speedy recovery.

Of course it was not until several days after the attack on the President that the news reached us through London telegrams to the Shanghai newspapers. It caused the profoundest sorrow not only among the Americans resident here but also among all the Europeans. The diplomatic representatives of the various nations hastened to call on me and evince their great concern and their profound sympathy. As our information is supplied only by occasional and very meagre telegrams, we have suffered, if possible, a more painful solicitude than those who at home are in receipt of almost hourly tidings of the condition of the President. At the time of this writing we are cheered by reports of his improved condition

after

after a severe relapse.

The President may be assured that nowhere is there a tenderer sympathy with him and his family and a more intense desire for his early recovery than among his countrymen in China and that the affectionate interest in him is hardly less strong among the European residents in China than among the Americans.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant.
James B. Angell.

Enclosures.

1. Mr. Angell to Prince Kung
No 59. September 9th, 1881.
2. Prince Kung to Mr. Angell
No 60. September 12th, 1881.

Mr. Angell to Prince Kung.
59/1881. September 9th, 1881.

Your Imperial Highness has probably heard through the public channels of information that on the 2nd of July an attempt was made to assassinate the President of the United States.

I have received from the Secretary of State a despatch announcing the painful fact, but stating that at the time of his writing (July 11th) the President was reviving from the first effects of the shot.

This attack upon the President's life has called out from all parts of the nation the strongest expressions of devotion to him and has elicited from the Diplomatic representatives and rulers of other nations the warmest messages of sympathy with him and regard for him. The Secretary mentions with gratification that the Ministers of His Imperial Majesty, the Emperor of China, were especially prompt and earnest in their expressions of deep interest

~~interest~~ in the condition of the President.

I am happy to say that the latest news from Washington encourages the hope that the President may ultimately recover from the effects, though his sufferings must doubtless be long and severe.

With assurances etc.

(signed) James B. Angell.

60/1881.

Prince Kung, Chief Secretary of State for foreign affairs, herewith makes a communication in reply.

I have had the honor to receive Your Excellency's communication of the 9th instant informing me of the attempted assassination of the President of the United States.

We had learned by the newspapers that the President of the United States had been unexpectedly wounded (by an assassin) but were loath to believe it. On the same day however that we received your despatch we also received a letter from our Minister Chen, informing us of the fact in very much the same terms. (This painful event) has filled us with deep anxiety, and we can only pray that the President of the United States may soon recover from the effects of his wound without having to resort to drugs. This is what we earnestly hope.

H. E. James B. Angell,
etc. etc. etc. etc.

Peking, September 12th, 1881.

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Let. 4 - 16

No. 214.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
NOV 4 1881
RECEIVED

One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States,
PeKing, September 19th, 1881.

James B. Angell to
the Secretary of State,

PRINTED
FOREIGN RELATIONS
1881

Subject.

Interference with missionary work.

Synopsis.

Recites the particulars of a case at Nan-chang-fu, in which petty officials secretely connive to oppose missionary work in that city. And the steps taken in the premises.

No. 214. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, September 17th, 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State.

Sir:—

On the 27th of August I received from Mr. Consul Shepard of Hankow a despatch calling my attention to a case of interference at Nan-ch'ang-fu, the capital of the Province of Kiangsi with the Christian work of a native helper sent to that city by the Rev. Mr. Hart, an American missionary at Kiukiang. The despatch covered correspondence between the Consul and Mr. Hart. I do not deem it necessary to send you the correspondence, as the essential facts

facts reported in it are embodied
in my despatch on the subject
to Prince Kung, a copy of which 1/214.
is enclosed.

You will observe that the
helper leased premises near a gate
of the city. He was received kindly
by the neighbors, but was soon disturbed
by a person, who is a sort of headman
of a hundred families and has a
certain responsibility for them. This
person after trying in vain to persuade
him to leave, finally put the furniture of
the helper into a boat and sent him
with it down the river.

The District Magistrate
afterwards admitted to the foreign
missionary who went to Nan-Ch'ang-
-fu to inquire into the case the right
of the helper to hire the premises,

but

but argued that the neighbors and the owners of the house were opposed to his remaining. There can be no reasonable doubt that the whole proceeding was instigated by petty officials and the class of gentry, who originate all the opposition to missionary work. Nan-chiang-fu has acquired an unenviable notoriety heretofore for its hostility to foreigners, even those who are not missionaries. One of the British Secretaries, sent there some years ago to visit the Governor on business, was very rudely treated.

As we have no Consul resident in the Province of Kiangsi, I thought it wise, rather than to instruct Mr. Consul Shepard to open correspondence with the Governor, as I should have done if the trouble had occurred in

his

his province, to confer myself directly with the Yamen.

On the 6th instant I sent Mr. Acting Interpreter Taylor to the Foreign Office instructing him to express my regret that there seemed to be of late an increasing tendency to interfere with the peaceable prosecution of missionary work, to recite the facts in the case, to say that I could see no reason why under the Treaties our missionaries might not send a native helper to Nan-ch'ang-fu to hire premises and teach Christianity, that this seemed to be expressly provided for by the XXIX Article of the Treaty of Tientsin, and to inquire whether the Authorities at Nan-ch'ang-fu could not be notified that such interference as that complained of is improper and should hereafter

(be

be prevented.

The Ministers talked of the matter in an excellent spirit, said that these little troubles about missionary work could not be altogether prevented, and asked that I would send in an informal letter on the subject. Accordingly on the next day I sent to Prince Kung the letter above referred to and herewith enclosed.

The Prince has replied, saying that he will at once write to the Authorities at Nan-ch'ang to learn what they have to say of the facts.

This is one of the cases, in which, as I conceive, it is easy for the Missionary to suppose that our Treaty rights are broader than they really are. I think we may properly claim the right of the foreign missionaries to send a

helper

helper anywhere in the Empire to teach Christianity and that the helper may, if necessary for his work, hire premises. But I see no assurance in any Treaty that the foreigner may rent or buy buildings in interior cities. The fact that they have so long and in so many places been permitted to do so, doubtless entitles us to remonstrate against any sudden change or perhaps against any change at all in the tolerant policy of the Government. But after all it must be remembered that we cannot base on the Treaties an argument for the right of purchasing or renting property in cities like Nanch'ang.

I have written in this sense to Mr. Consul Shepard. I have also informed him of the action

of

of the Foreign Office.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

James B. Angell.

Enclosure.

Mr. Angell to Prince Kung

September 7th 1881.

Informal Mr. Angell to Prince Kung.

Peking. Sept. 7th, 1881.

Sir,

Yesterday I sent Mr. Acting Interpreter Taylor to the Tsung Tyamen to confer with the Ministers concerning what seems to me an unwarrantable interference with the Christian work of a Chinese teacher employed at Nan-Ch'ang-fu in Kiangsi by American Missionaries. The Ministers desire me to send in a communication.

By the instructions of the Missionaries this teacher went to the Provincial Capital in June last and rented premises just outside the Teh Sheng Gate and began his work. He was received with entire courtesy and kindness by the neighbors. The owner of the house with willingness leased it to him, a deed of rental was executed in due form and one term's rent was paid in advance.

While

While he was thus peaceably at work, some persons from the Pao Kia chü and afterwards the Pao Kia himself called to tell him he must not stay. Finding they could not easily frighten him away, they tried to alarm the owner of the house and succeeded in this, who then asked the teacher to go. On the 6th of July the Pao-Kia-chü hired a boat and ordered his men to take the teacher's furniture from the house into it and sent him away to Wu Cheng.

The American Missionary resident at Wu ch'eng went to Nan ch'ang fu and saw the Chi-hsien. This Magistrate admitted the right to hire the premises, but argued that the people were unwilling the teacher should stay, and finally produced a deed of sale of the premises leased, to show that the relatives of the man who leased the property

wished

wished to part with it. The Missionary replied and with justice that the deed of sale could not affect the deed of rental for the term, which had been paid for, and that the neighbors were not unwilling that the teacher should remain, until the Pao Kia and his men stirred them up to opposition. But as the Chi-Hsien was unwilling to take any action, the missionary left and reported the facts to ~~the~~ our Consul at Hankow. We have no Consul in Kiangsi.

It seems to me very clear that an injustice has been done. By the ~~XXIX~~ Article of the Treaty of Tientsin it is certainly guaranteed that a Chinese convert may peaceably teach the Christian doctrine anywhere in the Empire. And as the American missionaries sent this teacher to Nan-Chi'ang fu, they may properly bring this case to the notice of your Government.

I

I respectfully submit it to your consideration whether the Authorities at Nan Chang fu shall not be notified that proceedings like that now complained of shall not be repeated.

(signed) James B. Angell.

No. 215

One Enclosure.



Legation of the United States,
Peking, September 19th, 1881.

James B. Angell to
the Secretary of State.

Subject.

Acting Interpreter's Salary Account.

Synopsis.

Forwards a duplicate statement of the above.

No. 215. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, September 19th, 1884.

Honorable James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State.

Sir;—

Referring to my despatch No. 208. enclosing the salary account of the acting Interpreter, I have now the honor to hand to you a duplicate statement of the same.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant.
James B. Angell

Enclosure.

1. Duplicate statement of acting Interpreter's Salary Account.

Mr Cridler

No 216.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, September 19th, 1881.



James B. Angell to the Secretary of State.

Subject.

The new German-Chinese Convention.

Synopsis

Announces the exchange of ratifications of the above.

No. 216.

Legation of the United States
Peking, September 19th, 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine.
Secretary of State.

Sir:—

The ratifications of the Supplementary Convention concluded between Germany and China at Peking on the 31st of March, 1880, were exchanged at the Tsung-li-Yamen on the 16th instant. I forwarded you a copy of the Convention in my No. 179.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
James R. Boyd

Ack. These negotiations seem to be progressing satisfactorily or at least it does not seem possible for the Dept to aid in the matter at present WL

No. 217. Two Enclosures.

Legation of the United States
Peking, September 24th, 1881.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
NOV 19 1881
RECEIVED

Addr

James B. Angell to
the Secretary of State,

Subject.
Lekin Taxes & Import Duties.

Synopsis.

Forwards copies of correspondence between the British Minister and the Tsung-li-yamên concerning negotiations for the substitution of an Import Duty in lieu of Lekin taxes.

Monsieur le Maire,

J'ai l'honneur de vous prier de vouloir bien
faire connaître à la Municipalité que je
me propose de donner, le Dimanche 15 Juin
courant, à 2 heures de l'après-midi, dans
la salle de la Mairie, une conférence
publique et gratuite sur l'Histoire
de la Révolution française.

Je vous serais très obligé de vouloir bien
me faire savoir si cette conférence peut
avoir lieu à l'époque indiquée.

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur le Maire,
l'assurance de ma considération
très distinguée.

No. 217. Two Enclosures.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, September 24th, 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State.

Sir:—

It will be remembered by the Department that Sir Thomas Wade has been charged by the Diplomatic Body here with the conduct of the negotiations in their behalf with the Tsung-li-Yamen concerning a proposed substitution of an addition to the present Import Duty in place of the Lekin taxes, to which goods carried into the interior are now subjected.

I have the honor to forward to you herewith copies of a communication (from

1/217.

from the British Minister to the Tsung-li-yamen and their reply. 3/217.
I received the papers September 9th.
Since that time no further progress
has been made.

You will observe that the
British Minister by the instruction
of his Colleagues pressed the Foreign
Office with the inquiry how far they
were prepared to go in really securing
the emancipation of foreign goods from
the Lekin burdens, provided an Import-
duty of ten per cent was paid in lieu
of the five per cent now levied, and
informed them that he and his colleagues
could not recommend the adoption of
this change to their respective Governments,
unless certain other provisions asked in
their Collective Note of November 1879.
were conceded.

The

The Tsung-li-yamen express their readiness to abide by the proposition to accept ten per cent import duty and abolish the Lekin, but owing to the demand for certain other regulations, defer action for the present.

It has been a tedious and difficult task to bring them to accept a proposition for a ten per cent duty in lieu of the present duty and Lekin. There is every reason why they should prefer some such change as that suggested, because the import duties collected by the so-called Foreign Customs all go to the Imperial Treasury, while the Lekin taxes go to the Provincial officers. But they have feared that the Provincial Authorities would not endure the change.

The Diplomatic Representatives

are

are without exception, I think, of the opinion that if certain safeguards can be secured, it is worth the while to try as an experiment say for five years the scheme proposed. But all deem it necessary to have some sort of court of reclamation, in which redress can be gained, if Lekin is really assessed. Yet it must be confessed that it is very doubtful whether for some time to come the Government can prevent the levying of Lekin. The people hate the tax and would gladly be rid of it. But it is extremely convenient for the local Authorities and the whole weight of the influence of the Provincial officials will be thrown in favor of the continuance of it. The temptation for them to collect it in violation of any engagements made

by

by the Imperial Government will be great, perhaps in many cases irresistible. But the Lekin assessment now loads foreign goods circulating in the interior with so grevious burdens and at a certain distance from the ports in so many cases becomes prohibitory in effect, that the Representatives of the nations which trade with China agree in the belief that some such arrangement as that now under consideration had best be tried for a limited period.

Still the negotiations have not proceeded far enough to justify any prediction as to the time of their completion.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

James B. Angell

The British Minister to the Tsung li Yamên.

Peking, July 7th, 1881.

The Undersigned has the honor to request the attention of the Ministers of the Tsung li Yamên to the following observations on the subject of taxation of Imports inland.

The disputes arising out of the taxation of Imports protested against by foreign Representatives, as in contravention of the Treaties, had extended over a long period. They may be said to have commenced, indeed, from the day that the Treaties of 1858. came into operation. There had been other questions with regard to which foreign Representatives conceived themselves equally entitled to complain. In order to the consideration of these they assembled in Peking in the autumn of 1879. and upon the ——— November of that year they communicated the result of their deliberations to the Prince of Kung in a Collective Note.

The negotiation of the changes desired was entrusted to different Ministers. That regarding Inland Taxation of Imports

(was

was committed to the Undersigned; his brief, so to speak, being a Memorandum in 20 Articles, in which the difficulties alleged to embarrass both the Import and Export Trade were set forth. The Memorandum had formed an inclosure in the Collective Note of the Representatives.

So far as Imports are concerned the grounds of complaint exposed in this Memorandum might be stated generally under two heads, (1) the taxation of imports in excess of treaty provisions both at the Ports and inland. (2) the neutralisation of the safeguards plainly provided by the Treaties against excessive taxation inland either by the act or the neglect of the Chinese authorities. By the Treaties but two forms of taxation are recognized: The Tariff Duty imposed at the port of entry, when the Imports are landed, and the Transit Duty, equal to a half Tariff duty, the payment of which is optional, but the Certificate attesting payment of which is held, under some of the Treaties, to free the Imports certificated from all further Imports possibly leviable.

But

But the Chinese Authorities, to state the case summarily, have conceived themselves at liberty to impose inland taxation without limit on imports, and the methods of levying this or other taxation, when denounced as objectionable by the foreigners, have been defended by the Chinese Authorities as in no way opposed to the Treaties. In particular has the interpretation of the Transit Duty clauses proved matter of endless contention.

In a reply to the Collective Note dated _____ the Tsung-li-Yamen informed the foreign Representatives, who had signed it, that there were three courses open to them, the abandonment of the extraterritoriality clauses, in which case natives and foreigners would be treated alike; adherence to the existing treaty provisions; or, acceptance of the modifications of Treaty stipulations accepted by the late British Minister, Sir Rutherford Alcock, in his Convention of 1869.

The certainty that it would be in vain to expect acceptance of the first of these propositions by any one of the Treaty Powers has practically excluded it from consideration.

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And as regards the second, the Undersigned has but expressed the unanimous feeling of his Colleagues, when he has declared that nothing would be more satisfactory than adherence to the existing treaties, could but a common understanding be arrived at regarding the meaning of some of their most significant provisions. That such an understanding was clearly impossible so long as the provisions in question were so differently interpreted by the Government of China and foreign Powers.

There remained the Convention of 1869 which, though it had been, in some quarters, considered open to objection, was nevertheless admitted to contain much that might be safely accepted. The Tsung li Yamen manifestly entertained the opinion that this Convention must be adopted as a whole or not at all.

It is not necessary here to retrace farther the history of the Undersigned's conferences with their Excellencies the Ministers upon this subject. Upon the 29th June, 1880, the Undersigned put the following plain questions to their Excellencies. Is there

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no arrangement under which by a single payment of Import Duty at the port of entry all further charges may be avoided! The object of the Undersigned, as he observed, was not more the alleviation of trade from taxation, which the importer regarded as violation of Treaty, than the termination of these ever recurring discussions to which such taxation gives rise.

The answer of their Excellencies was in effect that to secure this end, they saw no means but the one, an augment of the Import Duty.

This involving a reference on the part of the Undersigned to his colleagues, and on the part of the Tsung-li-Yamen to the Provincial Governments, a considerable time elapsed before negotiations were resumed. When they were, the position of the question was, in few words, as follows. It was contended by the Yamên that, from inquiries in the provinces, the Li Kin now imposed on foreign imports, amounted to something like three times the tariff duty. In other words the Tariff Duty being generally taken

to

to represent some 5 per cent ad valorem, the Likin and Tariff together might be stated at 20 per cent ad valorem. Their Excellencies, after some intermediate propositions, declared themselves ready to advocate a single payment of 11½ per cent as the equivalent of the present Tariff duty plus inland taxation.

The Undersigned and his Colleagues, being of opinion that if the half Tariff duty now paid only at the option of the Importer, when he elects to certificate his goods inland, were levied simultaneously with the Tariff Duty, the Chinese Exchequer would receive not only far more than now falls to its share, but to the full as much as it is fair to impose upon Imports, were nevertheless prepared to make an effort to meet the Chinese Government. But the rise to 11½ was at once pronounced excessive, and the proposition was rejected accordingly.

The Undersigned having vainly suggested 8. per cent, 8½ per cent or even 9. per cent as a maximum of increase, was finally given to understand on the

28th

28th March last that their Excellencies were prepared to agree to 10. per cent ad valorem as the amount that should include Tariff Duty and all other charges.

As their Excellencies are aware, the adoption of this or any other change so important, depends not only upon the acquiescence of the foreign Representatives now in China, but upon the assent of all foreign Governments having treaties with China, and as the Chinese Secretary and assistant Chinese Secretary of the British Legation were instructed on the 21st May to intimate to their Excellencies it will be essential that the Tsung li Yamen should state explicitly to what extent the Chinese City Government is prepared to go in the emancipation of the Import Trade, supposing that foreign Governments agree to this last proposition, which is in effect to double the import duty.

To state the question in other terms before they consent to any increase of the taxation to which they believe Imports under the present Treaties liable, foreign Governments will require the most explicit

(assurance

assurance that by such increase Imports shall be freed from all other Imposts, no matter what their denomination, and no matter in what part of the Empire or in whose hands, native or foreign, they may be found.

It may be at the same time considered certain that the increase of the Import duty, if sanctioned at all, will not be sanctioned otherwise than as an experiment for a stated term of years. It will be regarded, and had accordingly better be described, as a provisional increase (or, an increase upon its trial).

The Chinese Government will be expected to undertake that if, when the conditions of exemption from farther taxation shall have been agreed upon, it can be proved that imports are none the less taxed in excess of the limit agreed to, the excess shall be made good without delay to the party interested; and that to this end some system of joint investigation is to be established.

The Tsung li Yamen was further reminded on the _____ that there

are

are other provisions claimed for the protection of Trade in general in the Collective Note of November, 1879. some of which have not been as yet conceded, and the support of the proposition to increase the Import Duties is not to be counted upon until reasonable satisfaction on these points be secured.

The taxation of opium has of necessity been referred to both directly and indirectly in the discussions above referred to and their Excellencies have more than once observed that the trade in opium is exclusively a British question. It has farther been urged by their Excellencies that its position differs from that of any other item of the Import Trade within the scope of the Collective Note, in this, that the undersigned had individually engaged to regulate the taxation of the opium trade.

It is perfectly true that the opium imported into China is almost exclusively the produce of British India. It is also true that the undersigned did independently engage to attempt the regulation of its taxation. But it is

none

none the less true that opium is in the tariff of almost every Treaty power, and that although there is reason to believe that whatever the British Government may eventually agree to regarding opium, will not in the end be objected to by any other Treaty Power, it is perfectly open to any Treaty Power that may consider its Treaty rights insufficiently respected, to decline, until they be respected, the adoption of any arrangement affecting opium taxation that may be sanctioned either by Great Britain or any Power. As their Excellencies are well aware, the Undersigned has not used this argument for the purpose of obtaining any advantage for the opium trade, but as one which it behoves the Government of China not to lose sight of, when considering the complaints concerning the Import Trade advanced by the Powers in general.

The undersigned has to express his regret that the Ministers of the Tsung Li Yamen have had to wait so long for fulfilment of the promise of the

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under signed that he would address their Excellencies a note in this sense. For the delay, which circumstances have made unavoidable, none is responsible but the Undersigned.

Inland Taxation

Reply of Ministers of the Tsung-li-Yamen to semi-official note of July 7th, 1881.

August 1st, 1881.

The Ministers are in receipt of a note from the British Minister in which he observes that the negotiation of the changes desired in the matter of Inland Taxation has been committed to him and that he was given to understand on the 28th of March last that the Ministers were prepared to agree to ten per cent ad valorem as the amount that should include both Tariff Duty and Likin. The adoption of any change so important would however depend upon the assent of all foreign Governments having treaties with China; and it would be essential that the Tsung-li-Yamen should state explicitly to what extent the Chinese Government is prepared to go in the emancipation of the Export Trade. The change would be tried as an experiment for a stated term of years.

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The British Minister added that there were other provisions claimed for the protection of Trade in the Collective Note of November 1879, and that the support of the proposition to increase the Import duties is not to be counted upon until satisfaction on these points be secured. Referring to the Opium Question, the British Minister remarked that Opium is in the Tariff of almost every Treaty Power, and it is perfectly open to any Power to decline the adoption of arrangements affecting Opium taxation that may be sanctioned by Great Britain.

The Ministers would observe, omitting from present consideration the question of opium, which still remains to be discussed, that foreign goods which have paid Import Duty at a Treaty Port are conveyed into the interior under Transit certificate, which frees them from all other levies after payment of the transit duty. On the other hand goods unprovided with Transit certificates are liable to duty and likin at such stations as they may pass. So much is clearly stated in the treaty

Regulation

Regulations.

Sir R. Alcock's Supplementary Convention of 1869. provided that certain commodities of foreign origin - confined to three categories, should circulate freely in treaty port provinces on payment simultaneously of Import Duty and Tranit due, but in the case of non treaty port provinces the commodities having arrived at their place of destination would thenceforth be liable to inland charges in the same manner as native produce.

This arrangement, however, never came into force in consequence of the regrettable refusal of the British Govt. to ratify the Convention. The proposition of the British Minister, who is now engaged with the conduct of this question - to obviate inconvenient charges by a single payment once for all, is in fact what Sir R. Alcock intended by the simultaneous payment of Import Duty and Tranit Due, and the Ministers of the Yamen proposed at the outset to adopt Sir R. Alcock's project in its integrity. The

British

The British Minister not agreeing to this, the Yamen were inclined to make some concession, and first proposed a general import duty of twenty per cent ad valorem, and subsequently of Eleven and a half per cent to cover all levies en route to the place of destination, no matter where. The British Minister still held out, until at last the Yamen in a spirit of accomodation went so far as to offer a still further reduction to a rate of ten per cent.

Under the conditions at present existing the Import Duty of five per cent with the Transit Duty of two and a half per cent amounts to a total levy of seven and a half pr. cent ad valorem on foreign imports. The arrangement proposed would increase the aggregate by no more than the amount of the Transit Duty, and it would be very unsafe to assume that this addition will compensate the Chinese Government for dues which at present are levied in transitu, or after the goods have passed the place of destination. If however on the representation of the

General

several Ministers the present proposal should obtain the sanction of the treaty Powers, regulations for its enforcement as an experiment during a provisional term would of course be negotiated forthwith by the Representatives and the Yamên. The institution of such provisional experiment would, for the moment, be premature, in view of the British Ministers remark that "there are other provisions claimed for the protection of trade in the Collective Note of November 1879, and the support of the proposition is not to be counted on until (reasonable satisfaction on) these points be secured". Nevertheless now that the general principle (of the proposed change) has been determined, there is no harm in deferring for a time the discussion of its application in detail.

Ach. & file In transmitting printed reports duplicate copies should as a rule be sent and where the officer who sends them regards the reports as of interest to other Depts Copies should be sent for those Departments.

No. 218.

Rec'd at Dep't Sept 5 1881 Mr Cutler

made

Legation of the United States,
Peking, September 27th, 1881.

James B. Angell to
the Secretary of State,

Subject.
Opium.

PRINTED CHINESE RELATIONS 1881

Synopsis.

Mr. Angell forwards a Customs publication giving certain statistics on the importation and consumption of opium [illegible], and submits some observations in regard to the opium habit in China.

No. 218.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, September 27th, 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine.
Secretary of State.

Sir:—

I send you by this mail two copies of a report of the Imperial Maritime Customs on the consumption of foreign opium in China. The statistics are doubtless gathered with as much care as is possible. The result reached is that 10.000.000. catties (a catty is about 1⅓ lbs avoirdupois) of opium is imported and that this will suffice for the supply of about 1.000.000. smokers, or say one-third of one per cent of the population. Assuming that the native product of opium is equal to the foreign importation the conclusion

conclusion is given that less than one-
per cent, that is less than 3.000.000. are
opium smokers.

Of course it is impossible to
say with accuracy what is the average
consumption of a smoker. The belief is
largely entertained that in some way
the observations made by the Customs
Officers have failed to indicate the
extent of the practice of opium smoking.
The North China Herald of Shanghai,
which is by no means a severe critic
of the use of opium in China, says
that the Report has erred in not
taking account of the fact that
practically a large amount of the
opium is used twice, the ashes being
saved and sold for about half the
price of new opium. It remarks -

"We have heard it stated by
"many sensible Chinese that the

number

"number of their male friends who smoke
"opium as against those who do not
"is about seven to three, a calculation
"sometimes modified to six to four,
"and our own experience goes to prove
"that the calculation is not very far
"astray".

Personal inquiries which I have made would lead me to think that the proportion of smokers in Peking to the whole male population is less than that reported for Shanghai, but certainly much larger than the estimate of the Report.

It is impossible to learn how large is the native production of opium. But in some provinces, especially Szechüen and Yunnan, it is very large. Since a poppy-field is said to yield a crop two or three

times

times as valuable as a wheat crop,
and the demand for the product is
so great, it can readily be seen that
nothing but most severe laws —
stringently enforced can prevent the
spread of the cultivation of the plant.

What is the treatment of opium
by the Government? The importation of
the drug they cannot at present prevent.
For the most part they content themselves
with heavy taxation of it after levying
a duty of forty dollars a chest on importation.
While in the hands of natives at the port
it is often taxed as high as one hundred —
dollars. As it travels into the interior, it
is taxed at the local barriers indefinitely.
Since it is the only article imported for
which transit passes, freeing articles
from further duties in transitu, are
not given, it is regarded as lawful prey

for

for tax collectors, official "squeezes" and extortions of all sorts.

There have been cases, in which a Governor has prohibited the introduction of the drug into his Province, but probably such a prohibition was ineffective. When a new Magistrate takes office in a City, he often begins in a very virtuous way by issuing a fierce proclamation closing all the opium shops for a while. After a time his moral indignation subsides under the influence of bribes, and gradually the shops open cautiously and remain open till the next magistrate succeeds to the office. One is reminded of the alternations of usage in respect to the enforcement of the Maine law in our cities. But in general

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I think it may be said that since many officials are more or less addicted to opium and find it a convenient source of revenue, the traffic goes on, subject mainly to pecuniary burdens.

Imperial decrees make the use of opium by officials or by soldiers punishable with death, but transgression when punished, as it sometimes is, is visited with a lighter penalty, degradation in the case of officials and dishonorable dismission in the case of soldiers.

Earnest attempts have been made by the Central Government and by some of the Provincial Governors to suppress the cultivation of the poppy. One could quote from the Peking Gazette of the last ten years pages of

Imperial

Imperial Decrees, commanding the Viceroys and Governors to punish all who violate the law. The Decrees assign as the reasons for prohibiting the growth of the poppy, first, that opium is pernicious, and secondly, that the cultivation of it leads to a short supply of food. The famine which in 1878. destroyed millions of persons in Shansi and other provinces would have been far less severe, if so many acres had not been given up to the poppy instead of to wheat. Tso-Tsung-Tang, when Viceroy, did succeed to a great extent in checking the cultivation of the poppy in Kansuh. Some of the officials say, "Since we must receive "the drug from abroad, why should our "people not have the profit of raising "it?" This is certainly as good reasoning as

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that of the Christian statesmen and merchants of the West, who say, "Since" "the Chinese themselves raise opium," why may we not have the profit of" selling or of transporting it to them?"

For years many of the leading statesmen and best men in China have been watching with the greatest solicitude the increase of the use of the drug. They would gladly check it. The request for the insertion of the anti-opium clause in our recent treaty is one proof of it. But the obstacles to the extirpation of the use of opium are so formidable that it is not surprising that some should deem it impossible. It is thought by some that certain Chinese statesmen who have been most vigorous in their opposition to opium, are disposed to tax it very heavily and let it remain

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in use. The temptation to compromise in the warfare by an arrangement, which easily replenishes the public treasury, is great, it must be confessed. That some men should yield to it need not surprise us. Yet some of the Chinese statesmen believe in the power and the will of the Government to check the growth of opium in the country, provided the importation can be arrested. When we consider the docility of the Chinaman, we may believe that if importation should be stopped and a vigorous Emperor should undertake the work of stopping the cultivation of the poppy and the use of the drug, very much could be done towards so desirable a result. I think that neither the Imperial Government

(now

nor the Provincial Governors are
now doing as much as they might
and ought to do in this direction.
Still the Chinese Ministers have
more than once expressed to me a
strong desire to meet the difficulties
of the case and overcome them. In my
last visit to the Tsung-li-yamen Prince
Kung said to me that if the importation
from India could be stopped, the
Government could and would suppress
the growth of it at home. Surely good
men of all lands and the Governments
of states, which call themselves Christian,
may well strengthen the hands of the
Chinese Government in every act which
tends to rid China of what all must
regard as a great calamity. It is a
cause of just congratulation that the
United States have taken the initiative

in

in showing that one nation at least is ready to abstain from bringing to her ports the drug which is destroying the strength and the happiness of so many Chinamen and drawing heavily on the financial resources of the nation which it is cursing.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

James R. Rapp

File

No. 219.

One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, October 1st, 1881.



James B. Angell to
the Secretary of State,

Subject.
Mr. Angell's Salary Account.

Synopsis.
Forwards statement of the above account for the 3rd Quarter of 1881.

JBA

No. 219. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, October 1st, 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State.

Sir:—

I have the honor to forward to you herewith a statement of my Salary Account for the quarter ended September 30th, 1881. You will observe that I have included in this account the cost of a telegram sent to Washington on July 19th and credited the Government with my draft for same. The item is such a trifling one that I have thought it did not call for a separate account. I have also credited the Government with $15. fees for three passports issued from this Legation during

the

the half year of 1884. Those issued subsequent to that period will be accounted for by Mr. Holcombe

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

James B. Angell

Enclosure.

1. Statement of Mr. Angell's Salary Account for 3rd Quarter of 1884.

No. 220. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, October 1st, 1881.

NOV 19 1881

James B. Angell to
the Secretary of State,

Subject.
Acting Interpreter's Salary Account.

Synopsis.
Forwards statement of the above Account for 3rd Quarter of 1881.

No. 210.

Legation of the United States,

Berlin, October 2nd 1891.

The Honorable James G. Blaine,

Secretary of State,

Sir:

I have the honor to transmit herewith a despatch from the Acting Minister Resident at the Hanseatic Republics relative to the Proclamation issued by the Senate of Lubeck on the 30th ultimo, forbidding the importation of cattle, hay, straw, fodder, etc.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Enclosure.

1. Despatch of Acting Minister Resident relative to Cholera.

No. 220. One Enclosure

Legation of the United States.
Peking, Octob. 1st 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine.
Secretary of State.

Sir:—

I have the honor to transmit herewith a statement of the Peking Interpreter's Salary Account for the quarter ending September 30th, 1881. A dupliate statement will be forwarded by next mail.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant.

James D. Myall

Enclosure.
1. Statement of Peking Interpreter's Salary account as above.

File

No. 221. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, October 1st, 1881.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
NOV 19 1881
RECEIVED

James B. Angell to
the Secretary of State.

Subject.
Incidental Expense Account.

Synopsis.
Forwards statement of the above account for the 3rd Quarter of 1881.

No. 221. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, October 1st, 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State.

Sir:—

I have the honor to forward to you herewith a statement of the Incidental Expense Account of this Legation for the quarter ended September 30th, 1881. Although in dealing with this account the custom is to draw semi-annually. I have in this instance drawn for the quarter, being desirous of closing the account up to the time of my departure. You will notice that the Account leaves a credit balance of $137.94. This amount I shall

(hand

hand over to Mr. Holcombe to be carried into the next account.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

James R. Boyd.

Enclosure.

1. Statement of Incidental Expense account for the 3rd Quarter of 1881.

No. 222.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, October 1st, 1881.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
NOV 19 1881
RECEIVED

James B. Angell to the Secretary of State

Subject.
Receipt of telegram.

Synopsis.
Acknowledges receipt of the telegram announcing death of President Garfield.

No. 222.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, October 1st, 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State.

Sir:—

I have this day received the following telegram—

" Angell - Minister - Peking.
" Post = Shanghai.
" President Garfield died last night
" and Vice President Arthur has
" entered upon the duties of the
" presidential office after taking the
" constitutional oath communicate
" this officially to the Chinese
" Government September twenty.
" Blaine.
" Secretary "

I

I have the honor to be,
Sir
Your obedient servant,

James R. Snyder

No. 223.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, October 1st, 1881.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
NOV 19
RECEIVED

James B. Angell to the Secretary of State.

Subject.

The receipt of despatches.

Synopsis.

Acknowledges receipt of despatches Nos 117, 118. 119. and 120.

No. 223.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, October 1st, 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,

Sir:—

I have the honor to acknowledge this day the receipt of your despatches numbered 117. 118. 119. and 120.; and also of a box containing two reams of despatch paper.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant.

James B. Angell

Rec'd W.Z.

No. 224. Quietly acted Nov. 29. 1881. W.A.T.Jr.

Made

One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, October 1st, 1881.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
NOV 19 1881
RECEIVED

James B. Angell to the Secretary of State.

Subject.

Death of President Garfield.

Synopsis.

Receipt of the news in Peking. Expressions of sympathy and condolences from the Representatives of Western Powers and the Government of China. Mourning of the Foreign Legations.

No. 254

Department of the State of Ohio,
Office of the Secretary of State,
Columbus, October 1st, 1891.

To the Honorable James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

It was with the most profound
sorrow that this department learned
through the Associated press
and through a private telegram
received at Cleveland that yesterday
morning the news of the death of the
President.

The following resolution
was adopted by this department
this day, and directed to be
forwarded to you by telegraph.
Flags of the department were
ordered at half mast for the day

No 224 One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, October 1st, 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State.

Sir:—

It was with the most profound sorrow that this Legation learned — through the Shanghai newspapers — and through a private telegram — received at Shanghai and communicated to me the news of the death of the President.

The tidings reached Peking on September 27th. I immediately informed all my Diplomatic — Colleagues and Prince Kung. The flags of all the Legations were — placed at half mast for ten days.

All

All the Diplomatic Representatives hastened to express their sympathy for our nation either by notes or in personal interviews with me. I enclose a copy of Prince Kung's reply. 1224.

Today I received your telegram of September 20th, announcing that the President died on the 19th and that Vice President Arthur had taken the oath of office and had entered upon his duties as President. I at once informed the Legations and Prince Kung of the purport of your despatch and assured the latter that President Arthur would earnestly desire to continue the friendly relations, which happily had so long existed between China and the United States.

You may be sure that the

(over)

deceased

deceased President was held in so high esteem that the expressions of the representatives of foreign nations are not merely courteous official utterances, but the manifestation of sincere and genuine sorrow. The American citizens in China have shown the deepest personal grief at this national affliction.

The latest news prior to that of the death of the President had encouraged us in the hope that his life might yet be spared. It was therefore with painful surprise that we heard of his decease. His high intelligence, his careful study of economic and political questions, his large experience in public life, and above all his stainless and exalted

exalted character had so eminently fitted him for the station to which the nation had called him, that while our countrymen at home and abroad profoundly mourn what seems his untimely end, all civilized nations appreciate our great loss and sincerely sympathize with us in our heavy affliction.

With my best wishes for the success of the new Administration, which is called to the charge of affairs under such sad circumstances.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

James B. Angell

Enclosure.

1 Prince Ruy to Mr. Angell

No 68/1881 October 1st 1881.

Prince Kung, Chief Secretary of State for foreign affairs herewith makes a communication in reply.
68/1881.

I have had the honor to receive Your Excellency's communication dated 29th instant informing me of the death of the President of the United States.

We can well conceive that the grief which this sad event has occasioned to Your Excellency, in your capacity as officer of the United States, cannot adequately be expressed in words. The staunch friendship which has long existed between China and the United States makes us receive this announcement with feelings of sincere sorrow & sympathy with the people of the United States in their affliction.

In addition to writing you this communication we shall memorialize the Throne and telegraph to our Minister Chen-lan-pin who is in the United States to give utterance to our condolences in behalf of China, and we beg to request

Your

Your Excellency to convey to your Government the expressions of our sorrow and mutual concern in the joys and sorrows of the United States.

H. E. James B. Angell,
etc. etc. etc. etc.

Peking, October 1st, 1881.

made

(file) No 225.

Legation of the United States
Peking, October 1st, 1881.



James B. Angell to
the Secretary of State,

Subject.
The Chinese Students in America.

Synopsis.

Mr. Angell having taken leave of the Chinese Ministers and being on the eve of his departure will have no opportunity to speak about the Chinese Students to the Foreign Office. He hopes to do so with Li Hung Chang, and makes some general remarks upon the subject.

No 225.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, October 1st, 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,

Sir:—

I have this day received your No 118. with the enclosure of Senator Hawley's letter.

As I have officially taken my leave of the Government I cannot with propriety address Prince Kung formally on the subject and shall have no opportunity to confer with him and the Ministers informally. I shall hope however to have an opportunity to speak with the Viceroy Li-Hung-Chang at Tientsin on the subject.

In

In my No 125. I communicated to the Department some interesting correspondence I had with the Viceroy concerning the proposed recall of the students. I have also more than once conversed with the Tsung-li-yamen about the work of the young men, who are now studying with so much success in America.

There is truth in the statement of the Viceroy that a certain number are wanted now as operators of the new telegraph line from Shanghai and Chinkiang to Tientsin and in the Arsenals. Still the impression is very general here that the last commission sent out has reported very strongly that the young men are in danger of learning too little of their own language and literature

(and

and also of becoming too deeply imbued with the sentiments of the West. He thus appeals to what is perhaps the very strongest feeling in the heart of the Chinese Authorities. I greatly fear that no efforts of this Legation would avail much to modify at present the action of the Government. But, if I were to remain, I should be happy to make an attempt to secure the sending out of other students, when there have by their attainments and patriotism and devotion to their own classes convinced the authorities that the fears, which have probably in part at least prompted the recall of the young men, are without foundation.

My successor will of course

seize

seize any opportunity to influence the Chinese Government in accordance with your instructions.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

James B. Angell

Ach. He shd have sent 2 copies as one should be transmitted to ~~Bd of Health~~* If this copy is not needed by Dept. please send to ~~Bd of Health~~* W.R.

No 226. * Surgeon Gen U.S. Army. One Enclosure.

Dept. Let. for Surgeon Gen. 30 1881 Ill. Circle Dept. Circular 31 Oct. 1881 copies wanted by Dr Austin

NOV 19 1881

DEC 3 1881 Mr. Cribb

Legation of the United States,
Peking, October 1st, 1881.

James B. Angell to the Secretary of State.

Subject.

Customs Medical Report.

Synopsis.

Forwards a volume on the public health in China.

No. 226.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, October 1st, 1884.

Honorable James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State.

Sir:—

I have the honor to forward to you, under separate cover, a volume of "medical reports" published by the Inspectorate General of Customs and containing some valuable information on the health of the native and foreign populations in China.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
James R. Lyall

Mr. Angell leaves the Legation at Peking deserted and puts nobody in charge. In ach. this despatch call attention to this fact and state that the Dept disapproves strongly of such a course WB.

WB

No 227.

Rec'd in corr. relation with mail from Mr Allen to Dec 8 1881. Mr Cridler

Rec'd Nov 12 1881

J. S. Dudley to Asst Sec'y Mr Cridler

Legation of the United States
Peking, October 3rd, 1881.

James B. Angell to the Secretary of State.

Subject.

Mr. Angell's departure from Peking.

Synopsis.

Mr Angell intends to leave Peking on the 4th of October and expects to meet Mr. Secretary Holcombe either at Tientsin or Shanghai when he will give him charge of the Legation.

No. 227.

No. 227.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, October 3rd, 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,

Sir:—

As the mail closes today, I beg to announce that I expect to leave Peking tomorrow October 4th, Mr. Secretary Holcombe informed me by letter that he expected to sail from San Francisco September 3rd, As it seemed to me doubtful whether he could reach Shanghai by September 30th, I decided to postpone my sailing from Shanghai from October 1st to October 19th, so that the Legation should be left as short a time as possible without either his presence

presence of mine. I shall meet him either at Tientsin on the 7th or 8th instant, or at Shanghai about the 13th instant, and shall then leave him in charge of the Legation.

I shall write again to the Department from Shanghai.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant.
James B. Angell

Ach WB

Made

No. 228.

One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, October 4th, 1881.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
NOV 19 1881
RECEIVED

James B. Angell
to
the Secretary of State.

Subject.

Death of President Garfield and accession of Vice President Arthur.

Synopsis.

Forwards copy of Prince Kung's reply in relation to the above.

No. 228. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, October 4th, 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,

Sir:—

I have the honor to enclose herewith to you a copy of the reply
1/228. of Prince Kung to the communication in which by your instructions I announced to them that President Garfield died on the 19th ultimo and that Vice President Arthur had entered upon his duties as President.

I should have telegraphed the substance of the reply, if the Prince had not written that the Chinese Government will themselves telegraph

telegraph to you through the Chinese Minister at Washington

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

James B. Angell

Enclosure

1. Prince Kung to Mr. Angell.
71/1881. October 3rd, 1881.

21/1881.

Prince Kung, chief Secretary of State for foreign affairs, herewith makes a communication in reply.

I have had the honor to receive Your Excellency's communication of the 3rd instant informing me that President Garfield died on the 19th September and that Vice President Arthur has succeeded to the Presidential Chair, etc. etc.

We had written to Your Excellency the day before expressing our sincere sorrow for the death of President Garfield, and we are now comforted to hear that Vice President Arthur has succeeded to the Presidential Chair, and beg to offer our congratulations and to express the hope that the staunch friendship which exists between China and the United States may long continue.

We have telegraphed to Our Minister Chen-lan-pin to offer our congratulations (on the accession of President Arthur)

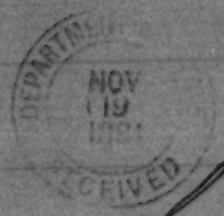
H.

H. E. James B. Angell,
etc. etc. etc.

Peking, October 4th, 1881.

File

Co



One Enclosure.

Shanghai, October 8th, 1881

Chester Holcombe to
the Secretary of State.

Subject.

Salary and transit allowances.

Synopsis.

Forwards a statement of
these accounts.

WM

One Enclosure.

Shanghai, October 8th, 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine.
Secretary of State.

Sir:—

I have the honor to forward herewith a statement of my account for salary and transit allowances during my recent visit to the United States on leave of absence.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant.
Chester Holcombe

Enclosure

Enclosure.

1. Statement of account for salary and transit allowances.

Ach. The legation in China seems to be of a most shifting character. In acknowledging inform Mr. Holcombe of the fact that the legation at Peking was left by Mr. Angell without putting any person in charge. The Dept cannot understand how Mr. Holcombe can assume charge of Peking legation at Shanghai. He is requested to inform the Dept of exact date of arrival at Peking and when he notifies Chinese authorities that he was to act as Chargé d'affaires and how he secures presentation to Foreign Office Minister of Foreign affairs. The whole matter is of such irregular character and so contrary to diplomatic usage that the Dept must insist upon his approval. WS

RECEIVED NOV

Shanghai October 13th, 1881.

Acted in accordance with instruction sent Mr Angell Dec 3, 1881 Mr Cutler

Chester Holcombe to the Secretary of State.

Subject.

Assumes charge.

Synopsis.

Has today taken over charge of Legation from Mr. Angell.

No. 1.

Shanghai, October 13th, 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine.
Secretary of State.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that I have this day assumed charge of the Legation of the United States in China.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant.
Chester Holcombe
Chargé d'Affaires

Please send copy of both seeds to the Bureau of Agriculture W.S.

Copy to Mr. Loring. Dec. 8-1881. Ale. Caldwell

Samples of sorghum not yet received

Separate No. 1. One Enclosure.

made

Shanghai, October 13th, 1881

James B. Angell
to
the Secretary of State.

Subject.

Chinese sorghum seed.

Synopsis.

Forwards samples of the seed and directions for its cultivation herewith for the Agricultural Bureau.

One Enclosure.

Separate No. 1.

Shanghai, October 13th, 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,

Sir:—

A few months ago the Agricultural Bureau sent some upland cotton seed to the Viceroy Li Hung Chang.

Having learned from Professor Collins, Chemist of the Agricultural Bureau who has been conducting investigations upon sorghum that some of the sorghum seeds of North China would be

be very acceptable to the Bureau, I signified my desire to procure some. He has kindly furnished me with six varieties of seeds, which I hereby forward by mail and beg you to send them to the Agricultural Bureau with the explanatory note furnished by the viceroy concerning the cultivation of these seeds. I have had an opportunity to express my thanks in person to the viceroy.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant

James B. Angell

Enclosure

Enclosure.

Directions for cultivating sorghum seed.

Memo. re 6 Samples of Millet seed (Sorghum)

Sample No. 1. San Sui Hoong Liang (Separated heads stiffs Red Millet)

" No. 2. San Sui Pai Liang (Separated heads stiffs white Millet)

" No. 3. Ma Wei Nien Liang (Horse Tail glutinous Millet)

" No. 4. Hwong Mao Nien Liang (yellow Cat glutinous Millet)

" No. 5. Ta Min Hung Liang (Large Peoples' Red Millet)

" No. 6. Er Chiu Hung Liang (Second Autumn Red Millet)

In this part of the Country the early planting is at the Ching Ming ("clear bright") term, about April 5th, the late planting at the Ku Ye ("grain rains") term, about April 20th. Hoeing (cultivating) to commence when plants are 2 to 3 inches high. There should be 3 hills every 6 Chinese feet (= 6 English feet) & should be hoed 3 or 4 times, or as often as farmer is able. Plenty of rain necessary, watering by hand will not do. Reaping about Sept 25th. Piled in Ricks & Thrashed about Oct 8 & stored in granary. Rich loamy soil will produce 8 to 9 tou (Chinese peck. 1 tou = about 20 lbs. weight of grain). Common soil about 5 to 6 tou. The grain must be thoroughly dry before taken to sea & must be carefully protected against dampness en route, for if dampened at sea the grain will not grow when planted.

Ack WS. File

Separate No. 2.

Shanghai, October 13th, 1881.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
NOV 19 1881
RECEIVED

James B. Angell to the Secretary of State.

Subject.

visit to Li Hung chang

Synopsis.

Gives account of interviews with the viceroy at Tientsin on taking leave.

Separate No. 2.

Shanghai October 13th/u 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine.
Secretary of State.

Sir:—

I left Peking October 4th/u and reached Tientsin October 7th/u. To enable me to exchange calls with the Viceroy the China Merchants Steamship Company kindly delayed the departure of its steamer one day.

Although the 7th/u was a Chinese holiday in which the Viceroy does not usually receive calls, he promptly

promptly invited me to call that afternoon. In company with Mr. Consul Zuck, I paid my respects to him at 3 p.m. and had a prolonged and very interesting interview. He spoke in most grateful language of our course in inserting the anti-opium clause in our treaty, and announced with great satisfaction that at last in the recent revision of the Brazilian Treaty the same clause had been introduced. Somewhat to my surprise he did not seem aware until I informed

informed him, that the new Russian Treaty declared trade in opium contraband.

I then ventured to tell him that, if England was to be brought to the anti opium doctrine, the Chinese Authorities must show to the world beyond all dispute that they are thoroughly in earnest in their purpose to suppress the cultivation of the poppy; that in my opinion, if in five Provinces this could be accomplished there would be hope of securing favorable action from England at no distant day.

The

The Viceroy replied that the growth of opium was now practically prevented in five Provinces, naming them, and that in his own not a spire was grown. I did not deem it becoming to question his statement. But it is unfortunately not at all sustained by the facts. Yet I do not doubt his sincere desire to check the growth and the use of opium.

I asked him about the return of the Chinese students from America. He plainly indicated that the recall was not in accordance with

with his desire, but that Chen Lan pin had made a report to the Foreign Office which had caused the recall. I expressed to him the great regret of our Government and of our people at the departure of the young men who had borne themselves so admirably.

I asked him what was the prospect of a treaty with Corea. He said he had been expecting a letter from Corea in reply to one he had written, but it had not yet come. He hoped for it at no distant day, and trusted that in

due

due time the negotiation of a treaty would be practicable.

I exchanged a few words with him in respect to Commodore Shufeldt, but he did not seem prepared to say whether he should be prepared to employ him.

I assured him that the new administration would desire as earnestly as President Garfield to continue friendly relations with China.

On the 8th I had the pleasure of meeting the viceroy at the opening of the "Isabella Fisher" Hospital which

which has been established for the relief of Chinese women. The entire funds for it have been furnished by a citizen of Baltimore, Mr. Goucher. It is under the care of an American missionary physician, Miss. Howard, M. D., whose services to the wife of the Viceroy have made her name widely known in China and at home. As Dr. Howard is a graduate of the University of Michigan, and the Hospital is the gift of an American, I was asked to make a brief address which I did. The

occasion

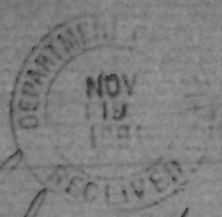
occasion was one of deep interest and significance. The local Chinese officials and the foreign Consuls were present. The wife of the Viceroy contributes a hundred taels — say $145. a month towards the current expenses of the Hospital.

Later in the day the Viceroy called on Mrs at the Hotel.

During all my interviews with him, he evinced the deepest interest in American affairs, and the strongest desire for the continuance of cordial relations with us.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant.
James R. Shyll

Ack. approve WB



Letter returned Nov. 23, 1881. By Order

made

Separate No. 3.

Shanghai, October 13th 1881

James B. Angell to the Secretary of State.

Subject.

Commodore Shufeldt

Synopsis.

Interviews with him at Tientsin.

Separate No. 3.

Shanghai, October 13th, 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,

Sir:—

While at Tientsin I had repeated interviews with Commodore Shufeldt, and I also spoke with the Viceroy concerning him.

I am satisfied that there is no immediate prospect of his receiving important information from Corea. I think also that it is hardly becoming for an officer of his rank and

and reputation to remain too long at Tientsin when his continued presence there may be misunderstood.

Finding that, if his services are not soon solicited by the Viceroy, he desired to come to the southern ports before navigation closes, I have signified to him my approbal of his withdrawal from Tientsin in a few weeks, providing the Viceroy does not especially request him to take a command in his navy, or there is not some new prospect of his gaining valuable information from Corea.

I

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant.
James B. Aydelott

File with papers of Lieut. Peters

Extract from letter of U.S. Vice Consul at Tien Tsin to Commodore Shufeldt dated March 3, 1881.

My dear Commodore: Since my last on the 22d ultimo I have to announce one or two events that have come to my knowledge, which I would communicate to you by wire were it safe. As it is, I hope this will meet you in season to take action.

On the 1st instant I had a long interview of over two hours with the Viceroy. He made many kind inquiries of you, and was wondering why he does not hear from you. He says be sure and write to the Commodore at once, telling him that in compliance with his request he had entered into correspondence with the Corean Minister, stating your wishes, etc., that

this question had been referred to the Home Government and that in a short time a favorable answer was received and that they were willing to negotiate with you. The Minister asked the Viceroy what would be demanded by you in making this treaty and he told the Minister about what would be just to ask and to give and made up a sort of memorandum for their guidance The Viceroy says to be sure and tell the Commodore to come out in the spring and accomplish the work so well inaugurated and after that is accomplished he wants you to come here to see him and have long talks upon the many questions that are surrounding China and he says he feels sure that when

he sees you again you can come to some final arrangement about staying with him as he wants your advice continually.

In a postscript he adds Lai Sun, interpreter, has just come in from the Viceroy and he says be sure and write to the Commodore to day as the Viceroy is anxious, and I informed him that the letter was already written.

Separate No. 4.

Shanghai, October 13th, 1881

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
NOV 19
RECEIVED

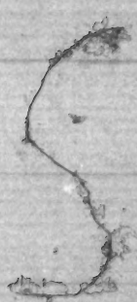
James B. Angell to the Secretary of State.

Subject.

Receipt of despatches.

Synopsis.

Department despatches numbers 121. 122. 123. and 124. and one circular have been received.



Separate No. 4.

Shanghai October 13th 4, 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine
Secretary of State.

Sir:-

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches 4 numbered 121. 122. 123. and 124. and also of a Circular announcing the appointment of Mr. Walker Walter Blaine as Third Assistant Secretary of State.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant.
James B. Angell.

File

Separate No. 5. One Enclosure

Shanghai, October 13th, 1881

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
NOV 19 1881
RECEIVED

James B. Angell to the Secretary of State.

Subject.

Salary account.

Synopsis.

Forwards the above account for fraction of a quarter from October 1st to date.

One Enclosure.

Separate No. 5

Shanghai, October 13th, 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State.

Sir:—

I have the honor to enclose herewith a 1/5
statement of my account for salary for the fraction of a quarter ending to day.

Mr. Holcombe will forward a duplicate of this account to the Department by the next mail.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
James B. Angell

Enclosure.

Enclosure.

1. Salary account.

Separate No. 6.

Shanghai, October 13th, 1881

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
NOV 19 1881
RECEIVED

James B. Angell to the Secretary of State.

Subject.

Transfer of Legation.

Synopsis.

Announces transfer of the Legation to Mr. Holcombe

Separate No. 6.

Shanghai October 13th, 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine
Secretary of State.

Sir:-

I have the honor to inform you that I have this day transferred the charge of the Legation of the United States in China to Hon. Chester Holcombe.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant.
James R. Shpill

No. 2. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, October 31st, 1881.

Chester Holcombe to
the Secretary of State.

Subject.

Legation rent account.

Synopsis.

Forwards a statement of this account for the quarter ended September 30th, 1881.

WM

No. 2. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, October 31st, 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine.

Secretary of State.

Sir:-

I have the honor to enclose herewith a 4 1/2 statement of the rent account of this Legation for the 4 quarter ended September 30th 1881. A duplicate will follow by the next mail.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

Chester Holcombe

Enclosure

Enclosure.

1. Legation rent account for quarter ended September 30th, 1881.

No. 3 One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, October 31st, 1881.

DEC 5 '81
RECEIVED

Chester Holcombe to
the Secretary of State.

Subject.

Incidental expense account.

Synopsis.

Forwards in duplicate of this account for the quarter ended September 30th, 1881.

No. 3. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, October 31st, 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine
Secretary of State.

Sir:—

Referring to Mr. Angell's despatch number 221. I have the honor to enclose herewith in duplicate statement of the incidental expense account of this Legation for the third quarter, 1881.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant.
Chester Holcombe

Enclosure.

Enclosure.

1. Duplicate of incidental expense account for the quarter ended September 30th, 1881.

No. 4. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, October 31st, 1881.

DEC 19 1881 RECEIVED

Chester Holcombe to
the Secretary of State.

Subject.

Mr. Angell's salary account.

Synopsis.

Forwards a duplicate of this account for the quarter ended September 30th, 1881.

No. 4. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, October 31st, 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State.

Sir:-

At Mr. Angell's request I have the honor to forward herewith a duplicate statement of his salary account for the quarter ended September 30th, 1881.

You will notice that the account is not signed.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant.
Chester Holcombe

Enclosure

Enclosure.

1. Duplicate statement of Mr. Angell's salary account for the quarter ended September 30th, 1881.

No. 5. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, October 31st, 1881.

Chester Holcombe to
the Secretary of State.

Subject.

Acting Interpreter's salary account.

Synopsis.

Forwards a duplicate of this account for the quarter ended September 30th, 1881.

F.M. Vanderburg

No. 5. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, October 31st, 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine.
Secretary of State.

Sir:—

I have the honor to forward herewith the 1/5 duplicate statement of the salary account of the acting Interpreter for the quarter ended September 30th, 1881.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant.
Chester Holcombe

Enclosure.

Enclosure.

1. Duplicate of salary account of the Acting Interpreter for the quarter ended September 30th, 1881.

No. 6. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, October 31st, 1881.

DEC 19 1881 RECEIVED

Chester Holcombe to
the Secretary of State.

Subject.

Salary account.

Synopsis.

Forwards a duplicate of Mr. Angell's salary account from October 1st to 15th, 1881.

No. 6. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, October 31st, 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine.
Secretary of State.

Sir:—

At the request of Mr. Angell I have the honor to inclose herewith a duplicate 1/6 statement of his salary & account from October 1st to 13th, 1881.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant.
Chester Holcombe

Enclosure.

Enclosure.

1. Duplicate statement of Lieut. Angelli's salary account from October 1st to 13th 1881.

No. 7. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, October 31st, 1881.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DEC 19 1881
RECEIVED

Chester Holcombe to
the Secretary of State.

Subject.

Salary account.

Synopsis.

Forwards Mr. Taylor's salary account from October 1st to October 26th, 1881.

No. 7: One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, October 31st, 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine.

Secretary of State.

Sir:—

I have the honor to forward herewith a 4 1/7. statement of the account of Mr. C. S. Taylor as Acting Interpreter of this Legation for the period from October 1st to October 26th, 1881.

He was relieved on the day last named by me.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

Chester Holcombe

Enclosure.

Enclosure.

1. Statement of Mr. Taylor's salary account from 1st October 1st to 26th, 1881.

Acknowledged

No. 8. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, November 1st, 1881.

DEC 19 1881 RECEIVED

Chester Holcombe to
the Secretary of State.

Subject.

List of furniture in Legation.

Synopsis.

Forwards a certified list of the Government furniture in the Legation.

No. 8. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, November 1st, 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine.

Secretary of State.

Sir:-

I have the honor to enclose herewith a list of the furniture in this Legation which belongs to the Government. 1/8

You will notice that the list is duly certified by Hon. Angell and myself.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

Chester Holcombe

Enclosure.

Enclosure.

1. List of Government furniture in the Legation.

Despatch No. 8.
Enclosure

Inventory of furniture belonging to the United States Government.

[In this list the letter S prefixed to an item shows that the article was purchased of Hon. Seward by Mr. Angell. C that it was purchased by Mr. Swift for the Commission Plenipotentiary, A that it was purchased by Mr Angell of some person other than Mr. Seward. The articles without a letter prefixed were in the Legation before Mr. Angell came].

Office in House

S 1 Mahogany Desk
S 1 Table (3 drawers)
S 1 " (2 —"—)
S 1 Settee
2 Mahogany Morocco covered easy chairs
S 1 Mantel cover
S 1 Call Bell
1-S 2 Book cases
S 1 Lamp (Hanging)
C 1 Peking hearth rug
S 1 Bench (Chinese)
S 1 Chinese what not
1 Office chair & cushion
1-A 2 Curtain poles
S 2 pairs green rep curtains

East Room

S 1 set furniture — 2 sofas, 2 arm chairs & 4 chairs)
S 2 pairs Cretonne curtains
S 2 " roller " "
S 2 Japanese etageres
S 1 Book rack
S 1 Bell cord
S 1 Hanging Lamp
S 1 Mirror
S 1 door Mat
S Straw matting on floor
1 water color engraving
1 view of Yosemite photograph
1 Engraving La Madonna
S 1 Tea table
S 1 flower bench
S 1 marble top oval table
2 gilt Curtain cornices
C 1 library table (t.)
1 easy chair (drab rep)
1 woollen carpet

Drawing Room

S 1 Chinese blackwood table
S 1 Japanese table

S 1 Peking high table (round top)
S 1 Japanese Etagère
S 1 Ottoman
S 2 high back Carved Chairs
S 1 Mirror
S 1 Chandelier
S 1 mantel cover
S 1 silk curtain for Book case
S Matting on floor
1 Drawing room carpet (room out)
1 Hearth rug
C 1 Peking rug
4 sets Crimson satin curtains
3 gilt cornices for curtains
1 sofa Crimson satin
1 easy chair " "
1 " "
6 small chairs 3 drab 3 "
S 1 black walnut table
1 mahogany card table
A 2 lamps fixed to posts
1 Rosewood music stand (Apparently left by Mr. Seward not purchased by any one)
C 2 easy arm chairs (t.)
C 1 " Chair no arms (t.)

C 1 Spindle chair (H.)
C 3 chairs (walnut) (H.)
C 1 card table (H.)
S 1 curtain pole
C 6 table cloths & 30 napkins

Hall.

S 1 hat rack
S 1 table
S 2 chairs
S 1 hanging lamp
S 1 lamp at door
S 1 door mat
A 1 Curtain pole
S Matting
C 1 Peking rug

Back Hall

C 1 tea table
S 1 screen
S 1 wardrobe

Dining Room

S 1 dining table
S 1 side board

Dining Room (continued)

S 1 sidetable
S 1 long table
S 20 Dining chairs
S 1 Chandelier
S 1 Mirror
S 1 Screen
S 1 Glass stand
S 2 hanging lamps
S 1 table (pantry)
S 2 Curtain poles
S 2 pairs green rep curtains
S 1 Mantel cover
A 1 Dining room carpet (room badly)

1st Room - West of Hall

S 1 Wooden bedstead & mattress
S 1 Bolster & 2 pillows
S 1 Bureau
S 1 Wash stand & furniture (English)
1 Chinese Wardrobe
S 1 Mirror cheval-glass
S 1 — " — with dressing case
PC 2 Wardrobes
S 1 Bamboo stand marble-top

S 1 Hat tree
S 1 Table de nuit
S 1 Flower stand
S 2 arm chairs
A 3 curtain poles
S 1 Towel rack
1 Yosemite photograph
C 1 small split bamboo rocking chair
C 1 common wood chair
1 woollen carpet (worn badly)
straw matting
S 1 spark guard
1 rug (worn)
S 1 round table

Second room — west

1 Iron bedstead 2 pillows & hair mattress
1 Camphor wood bureau
S 1 Chinese what not
S 1 table (2 legs)
C 1 — " — (Chinese)
S 1 Lounge
S 1 table (4 legs)
S 1 Circular stand
S 1 wash stand

S 1 towel rack
S 1 spark guard
S 1 mirror dressing case
C 1 small rocking chair
C 2 wooden chairs
S 1 lot crockery
1 woollen carpet (room)

N.W. Corner room

C 1 bureau
S 1 wardrobe
C 2 spring bottoms for mattresses
2 commodes
C 1 tin bath tub

Passage to Guest room

S 1 wardrobe
S shelves in passage

Dressing room N. of guest room

S 1 single iron bedstead
C mattress for same
C washstand
C Japanese toilet set
C Table
S Bench & cushion

S 1 Table de nuit
C 2 wooden chairs
A 1 curtain pole
1 pair lace curtains
S 1 small dressing stand & mirror

Wing room

1 Iron bedstead (mattress worn) & 2 pillows
C 1 wardrobe
S 1 table & mirror
S 1 table
A 1 mirror
S 2 towel racks
S 1 wash stand
A 3 curtain poles
C 2 chairs
S 1 wash stand
S 2 chairs
S 1 commode
C 2 large rocking chairs
C 1 toilet set pink border
1 woollen carpet (worn)
C 6 sets muslin curtains red band
in different lodging rooms

North Bed room

S 1 Bureau
1 Chinese wardrobe
S 1 iron bedstead springs & Bambos mattress
S 1 lounge blue cretonne
C 1 Chinese table
S 1 wash stand
C 1 Japanese toilet set
S 2 cane bottom maple chairs
A 2 curtain poles
S 1 mirror and dressing case
S 1 towel rack

Crockery & Lamps

1 Dinner set 133 pieces
1 Dessert. 25 "
4 large lamps
1 Canton Dinner set (very much reduced by long wear)

Glass

1 doz finger bowls
1 " " glasses.
1 " hock glasses
4 champagne glasses
8 claret "

10 madere glasses
6 sherry —"—
2 decanters no stoppers
1 claret pitcher
2 liquer carafes
1 tray for —"—
1 liquer glass
2 fruit dishes } in store room
1 centre piece }

Received from Mr. Swift

17 sherry glasses
18 claret —"—
16 champagne —"—
16 madere —"—

Kitchen & store room

6 3 large pantry tables
S 1 crockery stand
6 1 lamp rack
S 1 refrigerator
S 1 iron lined box
S 1 lot store room fittings
S 1 large dresser in Kitchen
S 1 —"— in passage way
S 1 sink in Kitchen

S 5 large water jars (Rongs)
C 1 filter
C metallic tea Kettle & 2 pitchers
cooking utensils partly C. & partly left by Mr. Angell

Stoves etc.

S
- 1 Empire Gaz Burner
- 1 Aldine —"—
- 1 Beacon light
- 1 Cylinder stove
- 1 Bath room stove
- 1 Franklin grate
- 4 Coal hods

Outside Store room

C 1 piece red carpeting
2 sets casters & legs for bedsteads
1 crib for child
1 single cot
C 1 dining table
C 1 Commode
C 1 long table
C 1 table
C 5 dining room chairs
C 1 small mirror
S 2 maple chairs

1 Sedan chair

1 " " left by Mr. Trevor

10 screens for windows & Piazzas

2 chinese stools left by Mr. Argall

Padlocks & cording ~~etcetera~~ left by Mr. Argall

We hereby certify that the foregoing list is exact and complete.

James B. Argall.

Lebrester Holcombe

Shanghai October 13th, 1881.

Secretary's House

1 Lacquered table
1 pier glass
1 chandelier (4 light)
1 " "
1 Iron arm chair
1 Dining table, 1 piece Cretonne
12 " chairs for curtains.
1 Drawing room suite
1 Sideboard & dinner wagon
Drawing room & library carpets
2 pairs rep curtains (Drawing room)

Secretary's Office

1 Canton desk
1 Iron safe
1 Despatch case
1 Copy press
4 Archive cases
1 Table (condemned)
1 Rolling secretary
3 Camphor wood chests
1 pine chest
standing shelves

No 49. Additional Mr Holcombe to retain it for the Legation and to include it all in the offsite inventory. Dec. 28, 1881. M. C. L. Hoff

Order

Legation of the United States.
Peking, November 14, 1881.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DEC 19 1881
RECEIVED

Chester Holcombe to the Secretary of State.

Subject.

Furniture bought for Commission.

Synopsis.

Refers to Mr. Angell's dispatch number 72. and asks for an instruction as to the disposition to be made of this furniture.

No. 9.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, November 1st, 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine.
Secretary of State.

Sir:-

Upon the 9th of August, 1880. Hon. Secretary Evarts authorized Hon. Angell by telegraph to expend $3.000 in the purchase of furniture "if necessary for "the accommodation of "yourself and other Commissioners." Under this authority the amount named, less $42.89, was expended by Messrs. Angell and Swift, and the details of expenditure accompanied by the usual vouchers were forwarded to the

the Department by Gen. Angell in his despatch number 72, of December 14th, 1880.

I beg leave now to call your attention to the following language in Gen. Angell's despatch just mentioned:—

"I await your instructions
"concerning the disposition to be
"made of the property above
"accounted for."

"I earnestly recommend
"that, if compatible with the
"views of the Department, it
"be retained for the use of the
"Minister and the Secretary.
"I think, should this recommendation
"meet with favor, it would be
"proper to allow the Minister to
"retain say two thirds of it;"

and

"and the Secretary one third.
"I judge that the present
"Secretary and myself could
"make a satisfactory partition
"on that basis."

This matter has
doubtless escaped the notice
of the Department as no answer
has been received to Mr.
Angell's despatch.

I have recently, as my
despatch number 8 shows,
receipted to Mr. Angell for the
furniture thus purchased,
and I should be very glad,
if the Department can see
its way clear to such a course,
to receive an instruction
approving and accepting the
recommendation quoted above.

I

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant.
Chester Holcombe

I do not understand this request
Make a verbal report

Mr. Adee

No. 10.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, November 3rd, 1881.

Chester Holcombe to
the Secretary of State.

Subject.

Delay at Shanghai, date of arrival in Peking.

Synopsis.

Has delayed nine days at Shanghai to meet Hon. Angell. Asks, for reasons stated, that he may be allowed to draw full salary from October 15th.

No. 10.

No. 10.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, November 3rd, 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine.
Secretary of State.

Sir:-

Referring to my despatch of August 15th in which the Department was informed of my departure on return to my post of duty at Peking, I have now the honor to state that I reached Shanghai October 6th.

Letters awaiting me there from Mr. Angell told me that he was already en route from Peking, and requested me to await his arrival in Shanghai. As it was necessary for

for me to see him in taking over charge of the Legation, I had no option but to comply with his request.

I relieved him on the 13th ult of October, as you are already aware, and I left Shanghai for this city on the evening of the 14th ult, reaching here upon the 25th ult.

My 60 days allowance for transit expired with the 14th ult, at which time, but for the detention at Shanghai, I should have been in this city.

Under these circumstances I beg leave to suggest that it should be held that I reached my post of duty October 15th ult and that I be allowed to draw my

my full salary from that day.

I have the honor to be.

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

Chester Holcombe

Report verbally made

No. 11. / Mr. Holcombe circ. of Feb. 20. 1877. no copy in desp. Jany 6. 1882. Records.



Legation of the United States.
Peking, November 5th, 1881.

Chester Holcombe to
the Secretary of State.

Subject. Desp. &c.

Returns of Consular correspondence.

Synopsis.

Refers to certain correspondence had between the Department and Mr. Seward in 1876-7, and asks that Consular Officers be notified that Department circular of February 20th, 1877. is still in force.

No. 11.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, November 5th, 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine.

Secretary of State.

Sir:—

As a result of certain representations made to the Department by Hon. Seward in his despatches numbers 6. 65. and 178., dated January 15th, May 12th, and December 5th 1876., and replied to and approved by Hon. Fish in his instruction number 117. of February 23rd, 1877, a circular was addressed by the Department to the various Consular Officers in

in China upon the 20th of February, 1877, directing them to transmit to the Legation punctually on the close of each quarter a copy of their records of official correspondence according to Forms Nos. 118. and 119. prescribed in the Consular Regulations.

As the substance of that Department Circular is not embodied in the Consular Regulations, edition of 1881, some of our Consuls appear to be of opinion that the returns called for by it are no longer to be furnished to the Legation.

I beg leave to submit that

that, in my opinion, the reasons for desiring that these returns should be sent to the Legation, as set forth by Mr. Seward, are still & valid, and to suggest that the Consular Officers be informed that the Circular instruction issued by Mr. Fish is still in force and should be complied with.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

Chester Holcombe

No. 12. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, November 10th, 1881.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JAN 3 1882
RECEIVED

Chester Holcombe to the Secretary of State.

Subject.

Legation rent account.

Synopsis.

Refers to despatch number 2. and covers a duplicate statement.

M. Gibbs

Yours Sincerely,

Secretary of the Invited Artists.

Publicity Committee 10th 1931

Memorandum from Mr Blair

Secretary of Artists

Referring to my despatch

memorandum from Mrs Mr Thorn

to proceed on display at

of the next general of Mrs

Exhibitors for the opening evening

Tuesday the 30th 1931.

Mrs Mr Thorn to be,

Yours,

Miss Artistic Committee.

Secretary Invited Artists.

Yours Sincerely,

No. 12. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, November 10th, 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine

Secretary of State.

Sir:-

Referring to my despatch number 2, I now have the honor to enclose a duplicate statement 1/12 of the rent account of this Legation for the quarter ended September 30th, 1881.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

Chester Holcombe

Enclosure.

Enclosure.

1. Duplicate statement of Legation rent account for quarter ended September 30th, 1881.

Duplicate

No. 13. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, November 10th, 1881.

JAN 3 1882 RECEIVED

Chester Holcombe to the Secretary of State.

Subject.

Mr. Taylor's salary account.

Synopsis.

Refers to despatch number 7. and covers a duplicate statement.

FM filed

No. 13. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, November 10th, 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine.
Secretary of State.

Sir:-

Referring to my despatch number 7. I have the honor to transmit herewith a duplicate statement of the salary account of Wm. C. S. Taylor from October 1st to 26th, 1881. 1/13

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant.
Chester Holcombe

Enclosure.

Enclosure.

1. Duplicate statement of Rev. Taylor's salary account from October 1st to 26th, 1881.

I think this should be approved unless the Bureau knows some reason to the contrary

Mr Adee

No. 14. Two Enclosures.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, November 11th, 1881.

Chester Holcombe to
the Secretary of State.

Subject.

Official intercourse at Canton.

Synopsis.

Refers to Mr. Angell's despatch number 205., reports that the Consular Body at Canton had declined to enter upon official relations with the Grain Intendant. After consultation with his colleagues Mr. Holcombe has, for reasons given, instructed Mr. Carrow to put the arrangement agreed upon into effect without further delay.

No. 14. Two Enclosures.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, November 11th, 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine.
Secretary of State.

Sir:

Mr. Angell, in his despatch number 205. of August 28th last, informed the Department of a discussion which had arisen here between the Diplomatic Body and the Chinese Foreign Office in regard to official intercourse at Canton between the foreign Consuls and the local authorities. He stated that, as a conclusion of this discussion, it had been agreed that

that in ordinary matters of business Consuls should confer with the Grain Intendant, who had been duly commissioned for that purpose, but that, in affairs of graver & importance, Consuls should addressed themselves directly to the & Viceroy. Instructions to this effect were sent by Hon. & Angell to Hon. Vice Consul & Morrow, in charge at Canton.

Immediately upon my arrival in this city, Hon. & von Brandt, the German Minister furnished me with copies of certain letters which had been sent to the Viceroy of Canton by the Consular Body there, 1/14 copies of which I enclose.

From

From these it appeared that the Consuls had refused to enter into official relations with the Grain Intendant for the reason that the British and Spanish Consuls had received no instructions & from their Ministers.

There are altogether some ten Consuls at Canton the majority of whom had undoubtedly received the necessary instructions from their superiors here, and & those who had received & such instruction had been informed that the arrangement entered into was accepted by the entire Diplomatic Body. The failure of the British and

Spanish

Spanish Ministers to address their Consuls on the subject could not vitiate the conclusions reached here, nor could the Chinese Authorities be justly held accountable for it, or put to inconvenience and delay.

Under these circumstances and after consultation with Mr. von Brandt, we agreed to address our Consuls instructing them to put the provisions of the arrangement into effect & without further delay.

2/14. I enclose a copy of my letter to Mr. Carrow, and beg your approval of my action.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your

Your obedient servant,
Chester Holcombe

Enclosures.

1. Consular Body at Canton to the Viceroy.
2. Asst. Holcombe to Asst. Carrow. No. 3. November 1st, 1881.

Despatch No. 14.
Enclosure 1.

Consular Body to His Excellency
The Viceroy of the Two Kwang.

Sir.—

On the 13th instant we had the honor to receive a letter from Y. E. to the following effect. (quoted).

The British Consul, as Y. E. has been informed by a note from Mr. Hance, has so far received no instructions from his Minister respecting the matter in question, and in view of this fact, we, the members of the Consular Body, in our meeting of this day, have decided to wait until such instructions have arrived before entering into correspondence on the subject.

Y. E. will, we hope, agree with us in thinking that, in a matter which inaugurates a new method of procedure and which affects us all alike, it is very desirable that simultaneous and common action should be adopted.

We renew etc. etc.

His Excellency Chang Shue Shing
Governor General of the Two Kwang
etc. etc. etc.

The Consular Body to H. E. The Viceroy.

Sir:—

On the 19th instant, the Consular-Body had the honor to address you the following letter (quoted) in reply to Y. E. communication of the 13th instant.

As this letter was just being despatched, the various Consuls received a despatch from the Grain Intendant, accompanied by that official's card, which, in conformity with the decision arrived at in our meeting of yesterday, we felt obliged to decline to receive.

As we had the honor to explain in our letter of yesterday's date, we consider it of the utmost importance that, in a matter which inaugurates a new method of procedure and which affects us all alike, we should adopt a simultaneous and uniform course of action. This, as Y. E. will see, we are not in a position to do until the British and Spanish Consuls have received instructions from their Ministers, on the arrival of which we will communicate further with Y. E. on the subject.

We would add that the Grain

Intendant

Intendant appears to have acted with undue haste in addressing us before we had replied to Y. E. communication on the subject.

We avail ourselves etc.

Despatch No. 14.
Enclosure 2.

Mr. Holcombe
No. 3.

to Mr. Carrow.
November 1st, 1881.

Sir:—

In the matter of the official intercourse with the provincial authorities at your port, and having more particular reference to Mr. Angell's despatch No. 29. of August 23d to you, I beg leave to say that my German Colleague has submitted to me certain papers which he has received from his Consul at Canton, consisting of two notes addressed by the Consular Body to the Viceroy and dated on or about September 19th in which the Consular Body decline to recognize the Grain Intendant as a duly authorized agent with whom to transact official business, because the British and Spanish Consuls have not received any instructions from their Ministers.

The arrangement under which the Consuls at Canton are to transact routine matters of business with the Grain Intendant was arrived at after a full discussion between the Diplomatic Body and the Foreign Office. It was accepted, under the stipulations given in Mr. Angell's despatch referred to above, by the entire Diplomatic Body here.

Under these circumstances there would seem to be no valid reason for delay in putting this arrangement into operation. While it was much to be desired that all the Consuls at Canton should receive instruction upon this subject simultaneously, yet the failure of any to receive instructions can hardly be held to vitiate the agreement, nor can

(the

Chinese Authorities be held responsible for such failure.

I beg leave therefore to request that you consider Mr. Angell's instruction in the premises as final, and that, in case you have not already done so, you carry its provisions into effect without further delay.

I am, &c.,

(signed) Chester Holcombe

Our copy to Statistics

Our copy to Labor

No. 15. (File)

Wade

Legation of the United States.
Peking, November 14th, 1881.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JAN 3 1882
RECEIVED

Chester Holcombe to
the Secretary of State.

Subject.

Customs Trade Reports.

Synopsis.

Forwards, under separate cover, two copies of the Trade Reports for 1880.

No. 15.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, November 11th, 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine.
Secretary of State.

Sir:-

I have the honor to transmit herewith, under separate cover, two copies of the "Reports on Trade at the Treaty Ports for the year "1880." as issued by order of the Inspector General of Chinese Maritime Customs.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant.
Chester Holcombe

made

No. 16. Five Enclosures.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, November 17th, 1881.

Chester Holcombe to
the Secretary of State.

Subject.

Missionary disturbance at Chinanfu.

Synopsis.

Refers to Mr. Angell's despatch number 199. and forwards further correspondence. Local officials not disposed to do justice. Mr. Holcombe has called the attention of Prince Kung to the case anew and has urged that stringent orders be sent to the local authorities. Prince Kung has complied with this request.

No. 16. Five Enclosures.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, November 17th, 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State.

Sir:

Referring to Mr. Angell's despatch number 199. of August 18th, I have the honor to transmit to you herewith certain further papers bearing upon the attack by a mob upon the premises of the American Presbyterian Mission at Chi nan fu in the province of Shantung. These consist of a
1/16 despatch addressed by the Foreign Office to Mr. Angell in response to one from him which formed enclosure No. 2 in his despatch noted
2/16 above; a letter from the missionaries to me;
3/16 my response to them; a despatch which I
4/16 addressed to Prince Kung in the premises;

(and

and, lastly, the response of His Imperial Highness.

The letter of the Foreign Office to Mr. Angell is little more than a copy of the report of the Governor of Shantung upon the riot. As such it may justly be said to show no disposition on the part of the Provincial Authorities to deal with the several questions at issue in a just manner. For it omits all mention of the riot as such, shows no intention to punish the ringleaders of the mob, denies the loss of any property by the missionaries; and throws upon them the blame of the failure thus far to effect an exchange of the property originally held by them for another in a less objectionable location.

On the other hand the letter of the missionaries to Mr. Angell shows positively that property was lost by them in the riot,

(and

and that the local authorities repeatedly promised to make these losses good. Their letter to me declares not less plainly that they have tried on several occasions to meet the Chinese authorities in order to consummate the exchange of properties, but have on each occasion been treated rudely and denied access to any official who had authority to act in the premises.

This being the situation, I felt it my duty to address Prince Kung at some length, controverting the statements of the local authorities, dwelling upon the more serious facts of the riot, and the action, or lack of action, on the part of his officials in regard to it, and requesting that the following instructions be sent to the Governor of Shantung:—

1st That the local authorities consult with the missionaries and arrange in an amicable and fair manner for the exchange

exchange of properties without delay:—

2nd " That they make good the losses which the missionaries have sustained.

3rd " That they arrest and punish the ringleaders in the disturbance; and,

4th " That they secure, by proclamation or otherwise, immunity to the missionaries from the offensive and insulting language to which they are subjected.

I also wrote to the missionaries advising them to meet the local authorities in an open and frank manner in any proposition which they may make for an exchange of properties and to accept any that are reasonably well located and adapted to their wants.

I respectfully ask your approval of my line of action as thus taken.

I desire further to call your attention to the circumstances of the riot at Chi nan fu as briefly summarized

on

on pages 5. and 6. of my letter to Prince Kung (enclosure 4). It would be difficult to point out or indeed to conceive a more wanton violation of the letter and spirit of our treaties with China, and of that justice and good faith which we have a right to expect from a friendly power, than that shown in the case under review. The Taotai, who is the officer directly responsible for the maintenance of peace and the protection of the lives and property of our people, was not only notified in advance of the riot. But at the time it occurred he was in the building next door to the chapel, where the mob was organized and from which it issued on its errand of destruction. This building was a Government office and the leaders of the mob were clerks employed in it. And thus it may be said, in all fairness, that the mob was organized and started on its work under

(the

the very eyes, if not indeed in the very presence, of an officer who had been warned in advance, and who was bound both by his duty and by his promise to preserve the peace and to protect the property of our people.

And unhappily the history of this case is but a substantial reiteration of the history of nearly all the so called missionary disturbances which have occurred in China during the past fifteen years. In them all, from the serious massacre at Tientsin in 1870. down to the disturbance at Chi nan fu, there has been, without a solitary exception so far as my memory serves me, culpable inactivity on the part of the Chinese authorities prior to and during the outbreak, coupled with an utter unwillingness after the event to bring the guilty parties to justice.

I submit for the consideration of the

the Department whether this Government should not be made to understand by positive language on our part that such flagrant derelictions from duty on the part of Chinese local authorities will no longer be quietly overlooked.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

Chester Holcombe

Enclosures.

1 – Prince Kung to Mr. Angell.
65/1881. September 26th, 1881.

2 – Mr. Mills et. al. to Mr. Holcombe.
29/1881 Octob. 19th, 1881.

3 – Mr. Holcombe to Mr. Mills.
30/1881 Nov. 7th, 1881.

4 – Mr. Holcombe to Prince Kung
76/1881. Nov. 11th, 1881.

5. Prince Kung in response
78/1881. Nov. 17th, 1881.

Despatch No. 16.
Enclosure 1.

65/1881.

Prince Kung, Chief Secretary of State for foreign affairs, herewith makes a communication

In reference to the exchange of properties by the American missionaries at Chi Nan fu, Y. E. addressed us requesting that the local officers be instructed to seek for premises in the West End of Main Street to be exchanged with the premises originally purchased by the Missionaries; and while acknowledging your letter this Office on the other hand, wrote to the Governor of Shangtung to instruct his subordinates to deal with the case justly. A letter has now been received from the Governor of Shantung from which it appears — generally — that Liu Yü Ting bought of Chiao-K'ung-hsing a house on the West Street, and passed it on to the missionaries without reporting the fact to the local officers or making it known to the neighbors. When the missionaries proceeded to convert the premises into a chapel, the gentry of the Ko Yuan Shu Yüan went en masse and hindered the work because they deemed the Feng Shui of the locality greatly prejudiced

prejudiced thereby, and also that Liu Yü T'ing and the other had been guilty of surreptitiously dealing with the property. The local authorities fearing lest a disturbance might arise caused Liu Yü T'ing and Ch'iao Tung hsing to be arrested, punished more or less severely, and imprisoned, in order to conciliate popular feeling. The Missionaries were perfectly willing to give up the property in exchange for another to be provided by the officials. There happened to be at that time, in a lane in the Eastern District, a house belonging to Government consisting of 13 rooms, with open yards in the front and rear, suitable for building on. The building and grounds were not small as compared with the premises purchased of the Chiâs family. The Missionaries were earnestly requested to exchange their premises for this property, but they persisted in their refusal to exchange except for another on the Main Street. They insisted that they would be satisfied only with premises either on the East Gate on the Main Street or else in the street of the Provincial Treasurer's Office. Then a property was found on the East Main Street belonging

to

to one Yeh who was willing to part with it to the foreigners at a price to be assessed by the officials. The house might have been converted into a Chapel without any objection on the part of the neighbors, gentry, or people. The property comprised 52 apartments, besides 12 rooms in the out houses and was many times larger than the premises originally purchased of Chiao t'ung hsing, the grounds also being higher. On being repeatedly urged to exchange the properties, the only reply Messrs Murray & Hunter made was that they could not decide what to do till an answer to their letter had been received from Peking, wherefore the case has remained unsettled, etc.

It appears that the distance Westward from the Ta Yuan Shu Yüan to the West Gate is not quite one li and is wholly taken up by shops, not a single tenement is there for sale nor the least vacant space on which to build. The Missionaries well knew that there was not a house for sale on the West Main Street and therefore insisted that premises either in the East Main street or the street of the Provincial Treasurers office would satisfy them. How comes it that they should

send

send the case to you and still insist on having premises in the West Main street? We are sorely tempted to believe that their Christian converts have put them up to this course of action. The object of the Missionaries in building a chapel is to have a place in which to preach the doctrine that teaches men to be virtuous. It strikes us that men can be taught to be virtuous anywhere, without regard to locality. What is the object in showing a preference for East or for West? The property now secured is considerably larger than that originally purchased of Chiu T'ing hsing, the ground is higher, and the place well suited for a chapel. A word from Y.E. will suffice to settle the question, and we must request you therefore to instruct the Missionaries to make an exchange of their property with that offered by the officials. This arrangement will bring about good feeling between Christians and non Christians and the original purpose of exhorting men to practice virtue will not be lost sight of.

As to the disturbance which ensued

it

it was before the missionaries had removed and while the premises were being repaired that the gentry and people proceeded to stop the work in the yard. The officials immediately repaired to the spot in person to suppress the disturbance. There were no articles in the house nor did the missionaries complain of having lost any cash or valuable documents, neither was any promise made that compensation would be made for losses.

As regards the prisoner Liu Yü ting he ought rightly to be detained in prison for the present, and be released when the case is satisfactorily settled. But since Y. E. has interceded in his behalf we have ordered his release on bail: wherefore we make mention of him in this despatch.

H. E. James B. Angell
etc. etc. etc.

Peking, September 26th 1881.

Despatch No. 16.
Enclosure 2.

American Missionaries of Chi-nan-fu
to
Mr. Holcombe.
October 19th, 1881.

Inasmuch as our mission meeting has brought us together in Chi nan fu, it seems desirable to present the following facts concerning the troubles which have arisen in this place.

1, st The opprobrious epithets and other manifestations of ill will are very frequent and open upon the streets, no effort apparently being made to enforce the proclamation forbidding such things.

2nd The treatment of Mr. Murray at the Magistrate's office, on several occasions, has seemed adapted rather to throw contempt upon the missionaries and foster the prejudices in the minds of the Chinese than to allay the excitement and promote good fellowship. When his card has been sent on business, it has at times been refused, or if taken, no card sent in return. When he has gone himself, he has for a long time been refused admittance even to a waiting room, being kept standing in a large crowd, while the attendant

attendants, in loud tones, used language calculated to inflame the passions of the people.

3rd. No progress has been made in securing suitable premises in exchange for those destroyed. This may have arisen from the change of the high officials. Still the refusal of the present Governor and Taotai to receive Mr. Murray and the other members of the mission sending them from one official to another without getting a satisfaction from any, leads us to fear they intend if possible to avoid the just settlement of the claims.

We therefore wish you would direct the missionaries where they are entitled to be heard, and we venture to express the hope that you may be able to afford us such aid and direction as will secure the speedy and proper adjustment of these difficulties according to the tenor of the promises previously made.

We are, etc.

signed C. R. Mills
" C. W. Mateer
" Hunter Corbett
" J. L. Whiting
" John Murray
" S. A. C. Hunter

Despatch No. 16.
Enclosure 3.

Mr. Holcombe
30/1881.

to Mr. Mills, et. al.
November 4th, 1881.

Sir:—

I have received and read with interest the letter dated Oct. 19th, which you and your associates have addressed to me. I have also carefully examined the papers which have been found on file in the Legation having reference to a disturbance upon chapel premises owned by your mission in Chi nan fu in July last.

Among these papers is a despatch from the Foreign Office received at the moment of Mr. Angell's departure for the United States. I have answered Prince Kung's communication in full view of the statements contained in your letter to me, and you may rest assured of my deep sympathy and that no effort shall be spared on my part to render you all possible assistance.

On the other hand I need not remind you that the fact of your residence in the interior where our Government does not claim a treaty right for its people to hold property, and other circumstances render the situation delicate in the

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extreme. The same terms cannot be demanded as a right under the treaty as could be at an open port, and we must hope by the exercise of much forbearance and conciliation to conserve your own best interests and those of the cause which you represent.

In my opinion it will be well for you to meet the local authorities in an open, frank, manner in any proposition which they may make for the substitution of other premises in place of those destroyed, and to accept any that are reasonably well located and adapted to your wants. The practical negotiation for the exchange of properties must of necessity be conducted by you. All that I can do here in that part of the business will be to bring a certain pressure to bear upon the local authorities and thus ensure fair and reasonable action on their part. And I shall spare no effort to secure this result.

I am, etc,

(signed) Chester Holcombe.

Despatch No. 16.
Enclosure 4.

Mr. Holcombe to Prince Kung.
November 11th, 1881.

Y. I. H.

In the matter of the disturbance at Chinanfu last July and the exchange of properties by the American missionaries there, I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of Sept. 26th addressed to Mr. Angell.

In it Y. I. H. states that suitable premises for the uses of the Missionaries had been found upon the East Main street many times larger than those originally purchased of Chiao-tung-hing, the grounds also being higher; that Messrs Murray and Hunter on being repeatedly urged to exchange the properties replied that they could not decide until an answer had been received from Peking. Y. I. H. further states that the distance Westwards from the Lo Yuan shu yuan to the West gate is not quite one li and is wholly taken up by shops, not a single tenement is there for sale, nor a vacant spot on which to build. You ask me to instruct the Missionaries to make an exchange of their original property

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with that offered by the officials.

Y. I. H. further states in regard to the disturbance that it occurred before the missionaries had removed and while the premises were being repaired. There were no articles in the house, nor did the missionaries complain of having lost any cash or valuable documents, neither was any promise made that compensation would be made for losses etc. etc.

In reply I beg leave to say in regard to the exchange of properties that the premises on the East Gate Street have been examined, that while it is true that they are larger than those purchased of Ch'iao-tung-hsing, they are situated on the order of a pond of water, are damp, and hence unhealthy and unsuited for the use of the Missionaries.

At the time when the matter of an exchange of properties was being discussed between the local authorities at Chi nan fu there were no less than three premises for sale between the Ta Yuan shu yuan and the west Gate upon the Great Street, as shown by advertisements posted on their fronts. The Missionaries called the attention of the local

authorities

authorities to these advertisements and the next day they were all removed.

I need not assure Y. I. H. that my only desire in this business is to have it settled upon an amicable just basis. I have already addressed the Missionaries concerned advising them to meet the local authorities in an open frank manner in any proposition which they may make for the substitution of other premises for those destroyed and to accept any that are reasonably well located and adapted to their wants. Y. I. H. will also remember that the first proposition to make an exchange if the former location was objectionable to the Chinese came from the Missionaries. And this was only natural as they are well aware that the success of their work depends mainly upon their securing the good will of the Chinese among whom they live. And while it is true, as Y. I. H. observes, that men can be taught to be virtuous anywhere, yet it is only just and proper that the opinions of the missionaries should be consulted as to what is a suitable location for their work, especially when they have been dispossessed of an excellent location for no fault of theirs.

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And so far is it from being true that the missionaries are unwilling to consult with the authorities for a settlement of this matter that I am now in receipt of a letter from the former dated October 19th in which it is stated that Mr. Murray has been on several occasions to see the Governor and Taotai, that on the occasion of such visits he has been kept a long time waiting in the open street, being refused admission to a waiting room and at last forced to leave without gaining an interview with the Authorities.

In view of the fact that the premises on the East Gate Street are plainly unsuitable for the missionaries' use, that three premises were actually for sale on the West Gate Street, and of the repeated visits of Mr. Murray to the Official coupled with the treatment which he received there, can it with propriety be assumed that our people are unreasonable in this matter. Is it not rather true that the local authorities are not conducting their part of the business in a just and friendly spirit?

In reference to that portion of Y. I. H. despatch which asserts that no property

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was lost in the building at the time of the riot that the missionaries did not claim that they had lost any, and that no promise of compensation was made, I must remark that in a drawer in one of the rooms was cash to the amount of about $20., that the doors and partitions in the building were torn down and destroyed, and that the tools and clothing of the workmen were either destroyed or carried away. These losses were at once reported to the officials, who have repeatedly promised to make them good.

In a general review of the facts of this case and the manner in which it has been dealt with by the local authorities, I feel it a duty to call the attention of Y. E. H. to one or two points. It appears that on the 12th of July last the missionaries who had been for two months in quiet possession of the premises next the Lo Yuan Shu Yüan, and on which repairs had been proceeding for about three weeks were informed that on the following day an attack would be made upon the building. They went at once to the Taotai who assured them that

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he would keep the peace and that no trouble would occur. At 9. a. m. on the following day the building was attacked by a mob led by the Hsien Sheng from the Shu Yuan. At the time of the mobbing the Taotai was in the Shu Yuan, only next door to the scene of the riot. He had been warned the day before and had promised to preserve order. Yet it was not until late in the day, after the mob had finished its work, that soldiers came and took possession of the building. During the day one arrest was made. But curiously enough the person arrested was not a ringleader or participator in the riot, but an inoffensive Chinese Christian a agent whose only offense had been that he had acted for the missionaries in securing the property. And so far as I can learn not an attempt has been made upto the present to arrest a single one of the rioters. I should not recite these facts, with which Y. I. H. is already acquainted, were it not that they serve to characterize nearly every similar outrage which has arisen for many years, and that it is full time that the conduct of local authorities in such disturbances was changed for some line of action better calculated to preserve the peace and to conserve the good relations of Government

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and people.

Y. I. H. is not only disposed to deal justly with all matters of public concern, but you have often expressed a desire that Christian and non Christian Chinese should be dealt with fairly and should live together in peace and quiet. I submit that the course taken by the Authorities at Chinanfu in the matter under review is not calculated to secure this most desirable result.

I must therefore request Y. I. H. to send urgent instructions to the local authorities concerned to consult with the missionaries and to arrange in an amicable and fair manner for the exchange of properties without delay; that they make good the losses which the missionaries have sustained; that they arrest and punish the ringleaders in the riot of July 13th; and that they secure by proclamation or otherwise immunity to the Missionaries from the offensive and insulting language to which they are subjected from the populace.

I am reporting the details of this case with all the correspondence to my Government, and hope to be able to inform it at an early day that it has been justly concluded.

I have, etc.

(signed) Chester Holcombe.

Despatch No. 16.
Enclosure 5.

78/1884.

Prince Heeng, Chief Secretary of State for foreign affairs, herewith makes a communication in reply.

I have had the honor to receive Y. E. despatch of the 11th November referring to the exchange of properties by the American missionaries at Chi-nan-fu. You request me to instruct the local authorities to consult with the missionaries and to arrange in a just manner for the exchange of properties; to make good the losses sustained by the missionaries; and to arrest and punish the ringleaders in the riot. etc. etc.

This Office has communicated the contents of your despatch to the Governor of Shantung, and has instructed him to order his subordinates to make a satisfactory exchange of properties with the missionaries, also to investigate whether the missionaries have sustained any losses; and to deal with the ringleaders of the riot. Pending the receipt of a reply to our despatch when we will again communicate with Y. E.,

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we send this despatch meanwhile for your information.

H. E. Chester Holcombe,
etc. etc. etc. etc.

Peking, November 17th, 1881.

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No 17. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, November 19th 1881.

JAN 17 1882 RECEIVED

Chester Holcombe to the Secretary of State,

Subject.

Emigration from Canton to Honolulu.

Synopsis.

Forwards a proclamation stopping this emigration. Not likely to be of permanent effect, as the Chinese are building three steamships with a view to this trade.

No. 17. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking November 19th, 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine.
Secretary of State.

Sir:—

I have the honor to enclose
1/17 herewith for the information of the
Department a printed translation of
an important notification recently
issued by the Governor General of
Canton under which Chinese
emigration to the Sandwich Islands
is prohibited.

This emigration for the past two
years has been carried on mainly in
German vessels. And the terms of the
proclamation show that some
discussion had arisen between the

German

German Consul at Canton and the Governor General over that paragraph in the Chinese rules governing emigration which requires each emigrant to pay his passage in advance from his own funds, and forbids him to borrow money for such a purpose. The Governor General insisted upon a rigid adherence to this rule and hence emigration has been discontinued.

The files of the Department will show that a similar course pursued by the Canton authorities in 1878, rendered the scheme of Messrs Olyphant & Co. for carrying free emigrants to Peru abortive.

On the other hand, I was informed, while in Shanghai recently, by the General Manager of the China Merchants Steamship Company

Company, that they are now building three steamships of about 3000. tons burden each for the trade between China and San Francisco, via Honolulu.

As this Company is practically under Government direction, and as a large portion of its business on the trans-Pacific line will be the transport of emigrants to the Sandwich Islands, it is not likely that this order of the Governor General at Canton will be of permanent effect.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant.
Chester Holcombe

Enclosure.

1. Printed newspaper extract as above.

Despatch No. 17.
Enclosure.

SUSPENSION OF EMIGRATION TO HONOLULU FROM CANTON.

The following important notification, relative to emigration to Honolulu, has been issued by the Governor-General of the Two Kwang Provinces:—

Iu, Treasurer of Kwangtung, issues the following notification

On the 5th Oct. the writer received a despatch from H.E. the Governor-General of the Two Kuang, stating that he had received the following communication from Mr. Travers, the German Consul:—

"I have to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's despatch, with reference to carrying on emigration to Honolulu on lines similar to those employed in the case of Cuba, by issuing a certificate from the Customs to be stamped by an officer deputed for the purpose, and by modifying the general register to individual registers, as being more suited to the present state of affairs. I have also received forms of the register and certificate. It appears that a certificate is to be issued to each person, with which he may land, and which, further, is to be examined by the Chinese Consul, who will undoubtedly be able to determine whether or not the person holding the certificate is the same as was examined by the Customs authorities. This will put a stop to the malpractice of emigrating under assumed names, leaving no loophole open, and is exactly what I expressed a desire for in a formal personal conference with Your Excellency. The owners of German ships, being desirous for the establishment of some means for thoroughly examining emigrants, will be only too happy to act in accordance with the various regulations, so that a rigid examination may be held by the officer deputed for that purpose, and that the emigrants may go of their own free will. But as to the stamping of the certificate only when it is found that the passage money is not borrowed, I differ in opinion from Your Excellency, though in what we both said on the occasion of a former personal conference, as to the general circumstances of Chinese Emigration, we were not much at variance. The class of people who emigrate are for the most part those who, having no means of livelihood in their own country, go abroad, wherefore I fear that it would be a difficult matter to get them to pay their passage money before starting. If a labouring man has 50 or 60 dollars ready money and saleable property, he never dreams of going abroad. The present class of emigrants are in the majority of cases poor or in difficulties. If they are to act in accordance with the despatch under answer before they can emigrate, they will as a necessary consequence be deprived of any means of borrowing. For supposing a person tries to borrow from his security or some firm, he must deposit something tangible as a guarantee: otherwise no shop would consent to a loan. There are, however, charterers, who have agencies in Honolulu, who might perhaps consent to a loan. If not, then it is to be feared that a private agreement will be signed and an exorbitant rate of interest charged. The present regulations established by your Excellency were originally intended for the benefit of the coolie: but by insisting on a thorough enquiry as to whether the passage money has been paid and not in any way borrowed before allowing any emigration, what was an excellent idea is now completely marred. Your Excellency cannot fail to know that emigrants are for the most part poor or needy, so that there are two courses open, both of which are good in themselves—either to abolish the new regulations or to prohibit emigration. If your Excellency is bent on enforcing the regulations, then there is nothing left for me but to prohibit German ships carrying Chinese passengers. For the passengers, having to hand over their passage money at the time of the examination by a deputed officer, it is to be apprehended that the majority of them will borrow money by signing a private contract, or if they have no money, they have only to say when questioned that they have already paid their fare, which again will, it is feared, give rise to emigrating under assumed names. This will be merely deceiving the *Wei-yüen*, so that the stamping of a red seal is not sufficient proof. After due consideration of these two points I have come to the conclusion that this is not free emigration, and so cannot allow ships to carry emigrants embarked under such circumstances. If your Excellency is willing to agree to the charterers making a temporary advance of the passage money till the emigrant arrives at the port, the charterers' agent in Honolulu can find out where the various emigrants live and receive repayment from them. But charterers will naturally be careful not to rashly make advances, for in this case only promise is made by the emigrant on arriving at his destination to pay back, after he has found occupation and signed his agreement, the passage money out of the advance on his wages. In determining the place, nature, and duration of his engagement the emigrant is his own master; it is no concern of the charterer. In that part of the regulations which talks about the emigrant providing in full his own passage, it is not explicitly stated that the passage money is to be prepaid. If the emigrant reimburses the charterer out of the advance of wages given him by his employer, this repayment is made out of the emigrant's wages, which is his own money, and so he can be said to have paid for his own passage. The establishment of the new regulations, under which a rigid examination is necessary, is to prevent the enticing away of people for the purposes of selling them. The non-adoption of these regulations is not tantamount to non-prevention. The circumstances of Honolulu and Cuba are not the same. The petition of the foreign and Chinese firms in the former place to one of the high officials of the place, and his answer, together with the petition of the merchants to the German Consul stationed at Honolulu, have been transmitted to your Excellency for your information. Looking at the statements of these various documents, it appears to me that the Chinese in Honolulu are treated in the same way as the countrymen of other nationalities there, their status being exactly the same as in Hongkong, Annam, Saigon, and Singapore. In numbers the Chinese are comparatively more numerous than any other nationality in Honolulu, and as to Chinese merchants, there are over thirty flourishing and respectable firms. Your Excellency need have no suspicions: the evil of selling people positively does not exist in Honolulu. The Chinese merchants of the place, on learning that the statements in the representation of the Chinese Consul, Ch'ên, were untrue, in conjunction with the foreign merchants, presented a counter-statement, giving the true facts of the case. If the Chinese are maltreated, they ought to petition for all enquiry. If your Excellency were to allow two or three well-known firms in Canton to undertake the monopoly of securing emigrants, and regularly chartering ships to convey them, in this way there would be no breaking of regulations. Your Excellency may remember that on the occasion of a former personal interview, I not only touched on the subject of certificates as being the only safeguard against smuggling emigrants away, but also mentioned lists which the ship's captain would take with him, and the certificates which the emigrants would take with them, both of which would be presented to the Chinese Consul for him to examine; and that on the return of the steamer the Consul ought to send a report, giving a list of emigrants examined, and of the engagements entered into by them, for your Excellency's information. As to the examination of the ship by the Chinese Consul, it is absolutely necessary that he should board it in company with the German Consul to give him the necessary authority. The false and misleading report of Consul Ch'ên shows him unfit for his post, and doubtless the Chinese Government will send an able officer to substitute him."

The Governor-General finds that the regulation requiring Chinese emigrants to pay for their order passage has been in force for long, and is anything but new. It would be impossible to rashly decide to alter it, as this would give rise to other abuses which would spread. The despatch under acknowledgment said "that the charterers advancing the passage money is only to enable the emigrants after reaching their destination to make good their debt out of their wages. The charterer has nothing to do with the determination of the nature, place, and duration of the emigrant's engagement, in which matters he is his own master." The words appear as if Consul Travers had entire confidence in the Chinese merchants who charter ships, as being perfectly faultless. But in reality this class of merchant are cunning and wily, and utterly unworthy of any trust being proposed in them. The Him-wo-hâi firm may be quoted as an example, who charterered a German ship for the conveyance of emigrants: a charter-party was drawn up, but no money was paid. Strict injunctions were sent to the local officials to peremptorily arrest and deliver up the absconding debtors; but even up to the present time there is an unpaid balance. If these artful and tricky traders with their many artifices found no difficulty in deliberately swindling traders, how much less difficulty would they find in swindling poor Chinese people, who borrow money from them. The regulation that emigrants must pay their own passage is truly what prevents the swindling of Chinese merchants, and cannot admit of any compromise. Consul Travers' despatch, however, states that there are two excellent courses—either to abolish the regulation relative to the providing of passage money by the emigrant or to forbid Chinese emigration. It is impossible to cancel the regulation referred to above; but as Mr. Travers says, emigration to Honolulu may be temporarily prohibited, to the end that the various evils may be finally put a stop to, and that no end of trouble may be saved. On the receipt of Consul Travers' despatch, a communication was addressed to him in reply, that he might let the vessels of Germany know that they can no longer carry Chinese to Honolulu. Notice was given to the C. M. S. S. Co. to stop their boats from engaging in carrying emigrants to Honolulu, so that there might be no ground for excuse: a communication was also addressed to the officers deputed to excessive steamers at Whampoa for their guidance. In addition it is necessary to instruct the Treasure to communicate with the officers under his jurisdiction, to issue notifications forbidding for the present emigration to Honolulu.

The Treasurer, on receipt of these instructions, communicated the order to the various officials under his jurisdiction to issue notification, as he himself now does, to temporarily prohibit emigration to Honolulu, in order to put an end to the various malpractices which have sprung up. Let not the people disobey.

A special proclamation,

Kwong-sü, 7th year, 8th moon, 15 day.—(7th October, 1881.)—*China Mail.*

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No. 18 acted Feby 2 1882 Mr Cridler

Four Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, November 20th, 1881.

JAN 17 1882 RECEIVED

Chester Holcombe to the Secretary of State.

Subject.

Interference of Chinese official with missionary work at Le Chs.

Synopsis.

Gives in detail the nature of the interference and the action taken by Mr. Holcombe. Requests the approval of the Department.

No. 18. Four Enclosures.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, November 20th, 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine.
Secretary of State.

Sir:—

I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a letter which I received in October last from Rev. Henry D. Porter, an American missionary stationed in the province of Shantung in which complaint is made of the obstructive action of the Sub Prefect of the district in which Mr. Porter labors.

The complaint is to the effect that a Chinese widow who had been for many years a Christian being desirous of donating her residence to the native church of her village, the Sub Prefect,

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on the deed of gift being presented in the usual manner at his office for registry, forced the brother-in-law of the widow who acted as her representative to make such changes in the language of the document as would entirely change its nature, making it to be a deed of gift of the property not to the native church but to an individual, and not for a church but for a "Government-free School". At about the same time, this official warned the gentry and merchants of his district to avoid all dealings of every sort with the foreigners. He went a step further and issued an instruction to the constabulary and villagers ordering the neighbors and acquaintance of those who had embraced the Christian faith to report their names and numbers to him that they might be subjected to

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rigid examination, and denouncing severe penalties upon all who disobeyed this order.

You will find a detailed statement of the changes made in the deed of gift and a translation of the order of the Sub Prefect given in Mr. Potter's letter to me.

The order is drawn in exceedingly shrewd and crafty terms, and assumes for itself no less a motive than the preservation of the purity of the Christian Church. Yet it is manifestly in direct conflict with the spirit and letter of the toleration article in our treaty with China, and its purpose was without doubt to intimidate the Chinese and deter them from embracing the Christian faith. And its effects were immediate and serious.

I at once addressed Prince Kung calling

calling his attention to this unauthorized and illegal action on the part of his officer and requesting that instructions be sent him to register the deed of gift as originally executed upon payment of the legal fees, and to cancel his objectionable order.

2/18 A copy of my despatch is enclosed.

His Imperial Highness replied

3/18. promptly disapproving the action of his subordinate in so far as the deed of gift was concerned, in plain language, and saying that orders had been sent to the Sub Prefect "to act understandingly."

As the words of the Prince in regard to the more serious portion of the complaint against the local officer were not sufficiently positive I felt

4/18 bound to address him again calling his attention at some length to the illegal

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and arbitrary nature of the Sub Prefect's order and repeating my request that it be withdrawn. I also called His Imperial Highness' attention to the fact that substantially the same scheme for the official registry and supervision of Chinese christians had been proposed in February, 1871. by the Foreign Office and promptly disapproved by every Diplomatic Representative then in Peking. You will find this scheme of the Foreign Office given in full in Mr. Low's despatch number 56. of March 20th, 1871.

I have as yet received no response to my later letter.

The action of the Te Cho official in the premises given above has received more serious attention from my hands from the fact that, in my opinion, it is more than usually shrewd and crafty, and in case it is not promptly dealt with

with will be imitated by other local authorities, and thus not only thwart the beneficent labors of the missionary but work a practical abrogation of one of the articles of our treaty with China.

I ask your approval of my action in this case.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

Chester Holcombe

Enclosures.

1- Mr. Porter, to Mr. Holcombe
27/1881. October 18th, 1881.

2. Mr. Holcombe to Prince Kung.
74/1881. Novemb. 3rd, 1881.

3. Prince Kung in response
75/1881. Novemb. 9th, 1881.

4- Mr. Holcombe to Prince Kung.
77/1881. Novemb. 15th, 1881.

Despatch No. 18.
Inclosure 1.

Dr. Porter to Mr. Holcombe
October 18th, 1881.

Dear Sir:—

I am reluctantly forced to call your official attention to the recent action of the sub-Prefect of Tē Cho, in this province, in reference to our mission work. That action is calculated to disturb the long since established friendly relations existing between the missionaries and the people of the adjoining districts. I may premise that we have never had occasion to call upon the district officials to execute any office in our behalf or in behalf of our native members, except in the simple case of transfer of land, and executing of a deed of transfer of land tax from former owners to that of the Protestant Church.

The facts in the case are as follows:— About a year ago a widow in the village of Tē Chi Tun in the Tē Cho Sub Prefecture who had for many years been a member of our Church desired to present her dwelling to the church in the village in order that when she passed away the Church might have a local habitation. It had been a long cherished desire

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and she was full of delight in its accomplishment. This gift to the Church was enacted in due form, the relatives consenting, and the local constable and native writer acting as witnesses. I enclose a copy (see appendix A). In the following spring the land tax was duly presented to the collector whom it was supposed neglected to present it to the revenue office.

The official disturbance to which I now refer had its origin directly upon my own arrival in Shantung with purpose of building residence for Mr. Smith and myself. I was met upon the river bank at [illegible] by a church member who said that all the local constables of Tē Cho were ordered to report upon the following Monday, Sept 19th at the Sub Prefect's Yamen with reference to the sale of land and buildings to foreigners. It appears that the Hai Kuan tao at Tientsin had informed the Tē Cho official of the issue of a Road pass for two boats with lumber and material for building a foreign house in Shangtung. The Cho Kuan ordered the Wei yuan to ascertain where the building was being erected and what natives had sold property to foreigners. On the day

mentioned

mentioned, on the day mentioned, the constables assembled were severally asked if foreigners had purchased property in their neighborhood. The constable of Te Chi, in reply said that some transactions had taken place in his village, viz:- the gift of house and land as mentioned above. The official reprimanded him severely for not giving information long before and would not receive the excuse that he had no instructions to report such cases. The constable was detained in custody. The brother-in-law of the widow reported to me the detention of the Li-fang in great alarm. The constable was released to appear when called for, after a day's detention.

I thought it best to take the deeds of the houses and see the Chi magistrate personally, explaining to him that the property was not purchased, the right of purchase not being involved, but was a voluntary gift to the local church, although we held the deeds. Accordingly on the 29th of September I called upon the ~~local~~ officials and was received apparently with great courtesy

courtesy.

The Cho Magistrate looked over the papers, and promised to have the deeds stamped in case he found upon examination that the gift was a free offering.

My visit was just in time to save the brother-in-law Wu Ch'ang Tai from an official examination. That same morning the Ti Fang had been ordered to appear with Wu Ch'ang Tai. I left the native helper to manage the case in my absence. Two days later he reported the official as pleased with my appeal to him, that he had refrained from examining Wu Ch'ang Tai and had suggested that a copy of the deed be presented for record when the first was returned. To this course I assented especially as it was accompanied with a suggestion of the wisdom of keeping such a record in case any trouble should arise. The helper returned to Te Cho and presented the copy for record. In the meantime the official had taken a step which I think may be regarded as wholly in violation of the toleration clause in the Treaty of Tientsin. He had prepared

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an order for instruction for each of the Ti Fangs of this district to which I shall refer below, and of which I am able to give you a complete copy (see appendix B). The helper returned to Te Cho and presented a duplicate copy for record. The magistrate declined to receive the original document as it stood, and ordered his attendant to demand of the native helper the erasing of all words ~~in~~ relating to Christianity. On his declining to do so the attendant pointed out the words and clauses which should be elided. The helper at last under compulsion wrote the words "Believer in doctrine" — instead of a "Believer in the holy doctrine of Jesus" and the words "gives for a Government free-school," instead of "gives for a Christian chapel for preaching and study". He was induced to substitute his own name in place of "Jesu Tang King hui." I present in appendix C the deed as marked for the proposed changes by the official.

This curious document was placed on record in the Yamen, and the official approval given in the usual form. "The

petition

petition of Wu hsia, a widow, is granted to be placed on file. But the revenue official declined subsequently to stamp the deed even as approved by the higher magistrate. I should not seek redress were this the only matter to refer to.

As a preliminary statement it appears that the magistrate called together "the gentry and literati" of Te Cho and urged upon them to see to it that no business transactions of any kind be had between the people and the foreigners in the country. The report of this conclave has spread widely and has resulted in an intimidation of the people from any dealings with us. The proof of which is in the refusal of a dealer to deliver to us lumber and materials bargained for and all ready for delivery.

I now come to the special case in hand. I became aware on Saturday Oct. 15th of a wide spread fear of official persecution on the part of the church members in many localities. The Ti fang of the village of Ti Chi had

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informed Mu Ch'ang Tai that the "
mandarin had demanded of him the
names of all the church members and on his
naming but one, attesting it with a
"pen stroke" had said he should find out
secretly if there were others and should
have them all beaten together.

The following day the helper brought
to me a copy of the instructions to the
constables which I have learned were widely
distributed and upon which the greedy
underlings have already acted. The
animus of this order is not apparent at once.
That it is a high handed attempt to smother
the life out of the little struggling Christian
church in this region is the united opinion
of all of our native helpers, and of those
who were first threatened.

I give a translation of the "
official order" The Chief Magistrate of
Te Cho, Chen, informs the Ti fang by
order, that originally the treaty provides
that foreign teachers may teach the "
doctrines in China without the least
molestation, but the disciples of the

Doctrine

doctrine must be rigidly examined lest disturbances sprout up.

I myself as resident official at Chao Yuan hsien once asked and received answer from a missionary, that all who entered the Church were upright men of character, and that no vagabonds or bad men were permitted in the Church. It is supposable then that the foreign teachers in Te Cho cannot allow false characters in their Church.

This notice is therefore issued to acquaint all the people of this region together with constables and village elders, that all those wishing to enter the Church who are upright men of character are to be in no way molested. Moreover it is demanded that all village constables and neighbors of those entering the Church will carefully note their names and numbers and report the same to the Che magistrate for the purpose of careful examination. After the issue of this order if any persons secretly decline to report such names it will be taken for granted that they are bad characters who have entered the

Church

church for the sake of gain and to disturb the church. And after that when the official has espied out the case or others have informed thereof, the neighbors and village constables who have not informed shall be visited with severe examination and correction. Order to be carried out without delay".

The plausibility of the earlier sentences of this order to the local constables is quite overshadowed by its later demands. I beg you to notice that it is stated that while foreign teachers according to the treaty are not to be disturbed still the treaty demands a rigid scrutiny of all persons entering the church lest disturbances arise. I would submit that no such clause and no such intimation is to be found in any treaty. Persons are permitted by the treaty to practise religion without molestation and are to be protected rather than rigorously examined provided of course there be no case of law breaking by them. The inference that none but worthy persons are permitted to enter the Church in Shantung is indeed a natural one, and the information given

to

to all the neighboring people, village elders and constables that all worthy persons wishing to enter the church must not be interfered with would be taken as a commendation of real value were it not for the following sentence and the apparent intent of them. For the order goes on to demand that not only the constables but all neighbors and friends of such church members report at once and from time to time the names and numbers of such persons for the special purpose of an official scrutiny. I call attention to the fact that this injunction turns the whole community into spies upon the native Christians and gives all ill-disposed persons the opportunity to do what the toleration clause expressly forbids. That such is the correct interpretation of the order is emphasized by the next sentence which enjoins that if there are any ~~men~~ unwilling to report their names (or Christians) they are presumptively bad characters who have entered the church for the sake of gain and to make trouble in the Church. And further, if the Constables or the neighbors decline to spy upon the Christians or report them they shall all be severely punished when discovered

discovered. The immediate effect of such an order is to intimidate the native Christians and to set all their neighbors in a hostile attitude towards them.

We can not allow such an official attitude to pass unnoticed, under cover of protecting the church from hypocrites, the official has undertaken to suppress by intimidation the preaching of foreign religions and to prevent before hand the joining of the church by any who might be so inclined. Such a position of the Cho magistrate appears wholly adverse to our rights and privileges as teachers and preachers, and adverse to the rights of toleration granted to Christians by the Treaty.

While the witness of the order is the guarantee of such an interpretation the attitude of the Constabulary is still more evident. Since the order was issued the local constabulary have done their utmost to intimidate the native Christians telling them that the Ze Cho officials intend to prevent their believing the foreign doctrine and will punish them severely if they

do

do so. The official is reported as saying— "I have found out two already, one has received 400 strokes and the other 500, and the rest must beware of the like infliction". These two cases are notorious. Both of them professed to be Roman Catholics. One was punished for refusing his cart to the Government service, and the other for selling or bargaining the sale of a house to the Romanists. I ask you to notice that the order says instead of "Preachers of the Jesus Religion"— "Preachers of the beyond was doctrine" thus making no distinction between us and the Romanists.

That the immediate effect of such an order is an incipient persecution is shown by one or two incidents. The helper named above returned to his home on Saturday last to find all his neighbors in a great state of excitement surrounding his house and causing his wife great alarm and anxiety. They had taken this course to intimidate him and to get him to spend money on a feast for their benefit

In another village a young woman gaining her living by weaving and receiving

cotton

cotton yarn from her neighbors for whom she
wove cloth, had all her yarn suddenly withdrawn
the moment it was known that this order was issued.
The greed of a native yamen runner is well known.
The magistrate has whetted the appetite of the 40
or 50 constables of his official control and virtually
set them hounding out all of our native Christians
with purpose to hold the threat of official brutality
over them as a scourge to their fears.

I recall the steps of complaint against
this official.

First — A deceitful and illegal change
in the form of deed of land and houses, by erasing all
words referring to the Christian Church and —
substituting others in their place.

Second. — Unofficial instigation of the
"Gentry & Literati" to intimidate the people from
transacting any business with foreigners.

Third — Official instigation of
the constabulary to harass all church members
by compelling them to register their names,
with threats of punishment if they do
not register the non registering being taken
as presumptive evidence of misdemeanor.

Fourth — Official instigation of
(all

all village elders and neighbors of Christians to inform upon them upon pain of receiving severe punishment.

These several items of complaint all of which seem opposed to the letter and spirit of the toleration clauses of the treaties, are thus early brought to your notice in the hope that the unfortunate attitude of the magistrate may be presented to those higher in authority and that both ourselves and our native adherents may not be deprived in any way of ~~xxx~~ these ~~treaty~~ privileges which are clearly ours by treaty right. If there were a question of ~~treaty~~ any illegal act upon the part of any of the natives the official action might perchance have warrant, But we have every reason for supposing that the source of the present intimidation is simply hostility to foreign residence and foreign teaching the burden of assault however coming not upon us but upon the native adherents.

I would respectfully ask your immediate attention to the case presented and that we may have such relief from the present and impending official interference with our work as may seem just and wise.

I remain etc.

(signed) H. D. Porter

Despatch No. 18.
Enclosure 2.

74/1881.

Mr. Holcombe to Prince Kung.
November 3rd, 1881.

Y. I. H.

A complaint has reached me from Rev. D. H. Porter, an American missionary, of certain action taken by the Sub prefect of Te Cho in the province of Shantung and which it seems to me necessary to bring to the notice of Y. I. H. and the Ministers of the Foreign Office.

The facts in the case are as follows:— About a year ago a widow residing in the village of Ti Chi in the Te Cho Sub prefecture who had for years been a Christian presented her dwelling and the land attached to it to the native church of the village for a place of worship. This gift was enacted in proper form, the relatives consenting and the local constable and a native writer acting as witnesses. Last spring the land tax upon the property was duly paid to the collector.

Upon the 29th of Sept. last Mr. Porter, learning that the Sub prefect of Te Cho had been making inquiries of the

local

local constabulary about the property, called upon the official and showed him the deed of gift. He was courteously received, his explanations were pronounced satisfactory, and the official suggested that a copy of the deed be presented for record in his office, he promising to stamp the deed in case he found upon examination that the gift was voluntary. Accordingly a copy of the deed was sent to the sub prefect for record. But upon arrival at the Yamen the native who carried the document was forced by threats to erase from it all words relating to Christianity, and also to substitute for the words "gives for a Christian chapel for preaching and study" — the words "gives for a Government free school". He was also forced to substitute his own name as the party to whom the property was donated. I enclose for the information of Y. D. H. a copy of the original deed of gift, and the same deed as thus changed by order of the Sub Prefect.

In the meantime the Sub Prefect had called together the gentry & literati

of

of Te Cho and had commanded them to see to it that no dealings of any kind be had between the people of Te Cho and the foreigners. Not content with this he issued an instruction to the constabulary and people of his jurisdiction ordering the constables and neighbors of those entering the church to carefully note their names and numbers and to report them to the sub-Prefect for the purpose of a rigid examination. I am able to furnish a copy of this extraordinary document for H. I. M. inspection.

The evil effects of this order are already appalent. There is much excitement among the people, honest and well behaved Chinese are being thrown out of employment and reduced to beggary for no other crime than that of being Christians. The buildings in question at Ti Chi have been set on fire. And all this excitement and disturbance is the direct and necessary result of the arbitrary and illegal action of the Sub Prefect at Te Cho. I have no desire to pass any extreme criticism upon the conduct of that official.

Yet I know it to be the well established and wise policy of the Government of H. I. M.

to

to treat with equal justice all its subjects without discrimination on account of their religious belief. The Government does not concern itself with the religion of its subjects, but only sees to it that they are good and loyal subjects.

Under this wise policy I respectfully submit that the Chinese Christians at Ti Chi have as good a right to have a Christian Chapel in their village as the Buddhists or Taoists have to have a temple to their faith; that the gift of the widow lady was perfectly legal and proper; and that the conduct of the official in thwarting this gift as indicated above was arbitrary and illegal.

In regard to the instructions issued by the sub prefect to the constabulary and villagers, I need hardly point out to Y.E. that it is not only opposed to the wise policy of Your Government and in violation of the meaning of the treaty, but directly calculated to breed trouble and disturbance. The whole spirit of the treaty is to the effect that Chinese subjects may profess the Christian faith in peace and without molestation

just

just as they are allowed to adhere to the Buddhist or Taoist doctrines. Would the official even think of summoning all the Buddhists within his jurisdiction to his presence in order to examine whether they are sincere and honest in their faith in Buddha? Certainly not. Then he has no right to exercise such a power with regard to Christian Chinese. It will be quite sufficient for him to deal with them in justice and fairness exactly as he deals with other Chinese subjects.

Still less has he the right to incite and command the villagers to act as spies upon their neighbors and to report them to him for no other offense than that they are professing Christians. Y. I. H. will surely agree with me that no more certain course than this could be devised by which to provoke ill-feeling and trouble.

I therefore in conclusion beg Y. I. H. most respectfully to give this matter your early and careful attention and to see that such orders are sent to the Sub Prefect at Te Cho as will cause him to put the usual stamp upon the deed in question as it was originally written

written, upon the payment of the proper fees and taxes; to cancel his unjust and discriminating instructions to the police and people; and to refrain in future from similar acts calculated to disturb the peace and good feeling which has for many years existed in that region between the Christian and non Christian Chinese.

I have &c

Chester Holcombe

Despatch No. 18.
Enclosure 3.

75/1881.

Prince Kung, Chief Secretary of State for foreign affairs, herewith makes a communication in reply.

Upon the 3rd instant I had the honor to receive a communication from Y. E. embodying a complaint made by the Rev. Mr. Porter that a widow residing in the village of Ti Ch'i in the Sub prefecture of Tê Cho having donated land for a Chapel, the Sub Prefect altered the deed of gift; and that he also issued instructions to the constabulary, villagers, neighbors, etc. that they should from time to time discover the names and numbers of persons professing Christianity and report them to the Sub-Prefect that they may be rigidly examined. Y. E. also forwarded copies of certain papers, etc. etc.

This matter has not yet been reported from the province concerned to this office. I have given your despatch careful consideration. If the widow in question really desired to give her dwelling for a preaching Chapel, she certainly ought to have been, according to the Treaty

treaty allowed to carry out her wishes, and the change under pressure of the deed of gift to the purpose of a free school, as stated in your despatch, was an improper proceeding.

In the matter of the proclamation of which Y. E. forwarded a copy, a careful examination shows that its intent was to enable the Sub Prefect to examine, as your despatch says, "whether the persons concerned were good and loyal subjects" — and not in order to annoy or trouble them.

I have sent a copy of your despatch to the Governor of Shantung with instructions that the Sub Prefect referred to be ordered to act understandingly in the premises. When a reply shall have been received, I will address you again.

H. E. Chester Holcombe,
etc. etc. etc. etc.

Peking, November 9th 1881.

Despatch No. 18.
Enclosure 4.

7/1881.

Mr. Holcombe to Prince Kung.
November 15th, 1881.

Y. I. H.

I have had the honor to receive your despatch of the 9th instant in the matter of the action of the Sub Prefect of Tê Cho in altering a deed of gift made by a widow woman in the village of Ti Ch'i; and in orders to the constabulary, villagers, and neighbors to report to him from time to time the names and numbers of such Chinese as profess Christianity in order that such persons may be rigidly examined etc. etc.

I beg leave to thank Y. I. H. for the promptness with which this case received attention and especially for the justice shown in your remark that "if "the widow really desired to give her dwelling "for a preaching chapel, she certainly ought "to have been, according to the treaty, allowed "to carry out her wishes, and the change under "pressure of the deed of gift to the purpose "of a free school, as stated in your despatch, "was an improper proceeding".

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Y. I. H. states that the proclamation issued by the Sub Prefect shows upon a careful examination to be intended, not to annoy or trouble Chinese Christians, but to enable him to examine whether the persons concerned were good and loyal subjects, etc.

My despatch did not assert that the Sub Prefect issued this Proclamation with the intent to annoy and trouble Chinese Christians, but rather that the direct and necessary result of his action was to cause them annoyance and trouble. I also stated that this action on the part of your official was in contravention of the spirit of the treaties, and this assertion I feel bound to repeat and maintain.

The treaties state, in substance, that inasmuch as the Christian religion inculcates the practice of virtue, persons who profess it shall not, while peaceably pursuing their calling and not offending against the laws, be in any case interfered with or molested. By this article Chinese subjects are not only freely permitted to profess the Christian faith, they are also guaranteed immunity from all interference and molestation official or private so long

as

so long as they obey the laws. The Articles give no right to any official, Chinese or foreign, to question or inquire into the motives which lead any persons to profess Christianity. Questions of that sort have been wisely left to be decided — partly by the Missionaries and persons who have already studied and embraced the new faith, and partly by the subsequent life of the new convert.

Yet the Ti Cho Sub Prefect by his proclamation assumes the right to subject all who profess Christianity to a rigid — examination. Examination for what purpose? Y. S. H. explains that purpose to be to determine whether they are good and loyal subjects. Does he then hold that the profession of Christianity is a crime, or furnishes a valid reason to suspect the loyalty or good faith of a Chinese subject? Then he certainly is acting in violation of the treaty, and without reason too. For it is not a breach of loyalty, nor ground of suspicion for a subject to do what the treaty has in so many words given him full liberty to do. And I respectfully submit that to subject a person to a rigid official examination

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for doing that which he has a perfect legal right to do, and the doing of which furnishes no valid ground of suspicion is a violation of the letter and spirit of the treaty. It is needless molestation and interference.

Such an examination could serve no good purpose. The official in question is presumably not a Christian himself, is not familiar with the doctrines of that faith, and hence is not competent to decide whether others are fit or unfit to profess it. And the missionaries could not reasonably be expected to accept his dictum in any given case.

Thus it appears that the course proposed by the Sub Prefect is not merely a violation of the treaty, but is also needless and calculated to serve no good purpose. Its evil effects were clearly set forth in my earlier despatch.

Y. I. H. will remember that in February 1871. a series of rules for regulating missionaries and their converts were submitted by the Foreign Office to Mr. Low and the other Ministers then in Peking. The sixth of these rules proposed a procedure similar

(to

to that taken by the Te Cho Sub Prefect. You will also remember that these rules were disapproved by the entire Diplomatic Body. And Mr. Low's disapproval was confirmed by the Government of the United States. You can therefore hardly expect me to be satisfied with the action of the official at Te Cho.

And I beg leave in conclusion to repeat my request that he be directed to withdraw his objectionable proclamation, and to refrain from interfering with the Chinese Christians except in cases where they are accused of a violation of law.

I have, etc.

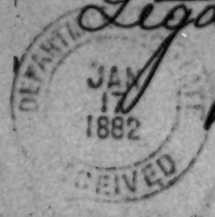
(Signed) Chester Holcombe

Acknowledge

Wade

No. 19.

Legation of the United States.



Peking, November 24th, 1881.

Chester Holcombe to the Secretary of State.

Subject.

Departure of Chinese Minister to Japan.

Synopsis.

Hon. Li Hsi Chang the newly appointed Minister to Japan is leaving for his post. Comments on the character of the new Minister and his instructions in the Liu Chiu matter.

No. 19.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, November 24th, 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine.

Secretary of State.

Sir:-

Referring to Mr. Angell's despatch, number 136. of April 9th last, in which he informed the Department of the appointment of Li Hsi Chang as Chinese Minister to Japan, I have now the honor to inform you that the newly appointed Minister had his audience of leave yesterday and sets out for his post of duty tomorrow.

Mr. Li Hsi Chang has been

been in Europe for the past six years, as Secretary of Legation at London first, and, later, as Chargé d'Affaires at Madrid. I made a sea voyage of some 8 days duration with him recently, and have met him often during his stay in this city. He is well versed in Western ideas, liberal and progressive in his spirit, and possessed of much ability and intelligence. He is courteous and affable in his intercourse with men, and, as I judge, well adapted to deal with the delicate questions now at issue between China and Japan.

As to his instructions in the Lew Chew matter, I cannot learn

learn that he has anything more than general orders to undertake to carry to a successful issue a line of policy indicated to me in a conversation which I had with Viceroy Li at Tientsin last March. This policy is substantially as follows:- China will not, under any circumstances, consent to the destruction of the autonomy of Lew Chew and the division of the islands between herself and Japan. China desires that the Kingdom of Lew Chew should be restored to its original condition of a tributary state to herself and Japan. Failing this, she is prepared to enter into treaty stipulations

stipulations with Japan, under which both Powers shall unite to guaranty the absolute independency of the Kingdom of Lew Chew.

Whether, in view of past negotiations on this subject, Hon. Li Hsi Chang will be able to carry out the policy indicated above must be considered, to say the least, as very doubtful.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

Chester Holcombe

File

No. 20.

Read

Legation of the United States.

Peking, November 28th, 1881.

JAN 17 1882 RECEIVED

Chester Holcombe to the Secretary of State.

Subject.

Customs Gazette.

Synopsis.

Forwards, under separate cover, two copies of Customs Gazette for July – September, 1881.

No 60

No. 20.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, November 28th, 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine.
Secretary of State.

Sir:-

I have the honor to transmit herewith, under separate cover, two copies of "Customs Gazette - No. 41. July - September 1881." as published by order of the Inspector General of the Chinese Maritime Customs.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

Chester Holcombe

Rec'd. Feby 21. 1882 from Customs

Despatch will be treated as Confidential

made

Confidential.

No. 21. One Enclosure.



Legation of the United States.

Peking, November 29th, 1881.

Chester Holcombe to

the Secretary of State.

Subject.

Great Northern Telegraph monopoly.

Synopsis.

Forwards a copy of a despatch from the German Minister to Prince Kung on this subject. Impossible to learn the exact status of the scheme. It probably has not been formally ratified by the Chinese Government, but remains as a local arrangement between the viceroy and the company.

Confidential.

No. 21. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, November 29th, 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine.

Secretary of State.

Sir:—

Mr. von Brandt, the German Minister, has kindly furnished me with a copy of a despatch, which he addressed to the Chinese Foreign Office in July last, in regard to the proposed monopoly of the Great Northern Telegraph Company. As this paper may be of interest to the Department, I have the honor to enclose a copy herewith. 1/21.

I find it quite impossible

impossible to discover just
what is the present status
of the agreement made between
the Viceroy Li and the Great
Northern Telegraph Company.
On the one hand, the Russian
Chargé d'Affaires, who has
charge also of Danish interests
in China, has informed me,
in confidence, that he has
been requested by the Government
of Denmark to tender the
formal thanks of that Power to
China for the favor shown to
its people in the ratification
of this agreement. On the
other hand, neither the Russian
Chargé d'Affaires nor any
other Diplomatic Representative
here believes that the agreement
referred

referred to has actually & received the approval of the Chinese Authorities.

It is not at all unlikely that, in consequence of the & action taken in the premises by Mr. Angell and several & other foreign Ministers, the & Central Authorities may prefer to allow the agreement to remain as a local arrangement made between the viceroy and the & telegraph company, thus & reserving to themselves the right to ignore and override it, should future circumstances require.

Mr. von Brandt desires that his paper be regarded as confidential, and that it be not

not printed.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

Chester Holcombe

Enclosure.

1. Mr. von Brandt to Prince Kung.

July 6th/4, 1881.

Despatch No. 21.
Enclosure.

Mr. von Brandt to Prince Kung.

With reference to the agreement between Li Chung T'ang and the Great Northern Telegraph Company a letter was received from Y. T. on July 2nd and at an interview with this office on the following day you expressed a desire to have a written statement of views on the subject. It is in obedience to this wish that the writer now submits the following statement. The discussion of this subject, however, by any party not immediately interested, can be but on general principles. It is only to be hoped that in her first management of telegraphs China will by a due regard for what is right avoid giving offense to other nations.

Western International Law says that each nation decides for itself in respect to telegraphs, whether within the interior of its territory or at places on its sea coast, always with a view to having rapid communication with other countries, while the relations between countries as affected by this question should not be lost sight of. Telegraph operations

(on

on land or on sea whether undertaken by the Government of a country or entrusted to a public Company, are sometimes confined to the limits of that country, and sometimes are extended beyond its limits into the jurisdiction of another country. In the latter case whether it be in respect to lines on land, or to cables landed at points on the sea coasts of the two countries, the laying of such lines can only be undertaken after mutual consultation and consent of the countries concerned. When a telegraph scheme is entrusted to a public company, such points as ~~—~~ limitation of years during which the company is to enjoy the monopoly, number of telegraph lines, number of telegrams sent in a given time, prices of telegram, whether messages are sent only by day, or both by day and night, and in case of rupture of the line, the time required for repairs, are all clearly stipulated in the agreement, which, if it be not complied with, becomes nullified. The object of a company in undertaking such a scheme is of course to get profit. The exclusive monopoly for a certain number of years which has been granted to the G. N. Telegraph

&c

Company is no novelty; contracts like this are of frequent occurrence. But such exclusive privileges are usually granted to a single line; the writer does not know of any case in which a nation has allowed a company to monopolize the telegraph enterprise at all the ports on its coast, thereby allowing the interests of the country to be jeopardized, and cutting itself off from a voice in those matters for many years

In the agreements which France and Russia have made with the G. N. Telegraph Co. it is only for two telegraph lines that a monopoly for so many years has been granted to the Company; he has not learned that France and Russia have excluded all other Companies from landing telegraphs at all places along their coasts. The circumstances of the times seem to require that China should exclude other companies from laying a cable from Shanghai to Japan and to the Russian Pacific coast. A line from Shanghai to Amoy and Hongkong, however, is a different thing. Hongkong is an English colony; and if in the event of war the cable landed there be purposely severed, many nations would be put

put to serious inconvenience. As regards a line from Amoy to Canton, if the G. N. Telegraph Co wish to monopolize the cable from Shanghai to Amoy and Hongkong, it is quite proper that China should grant them the monopoly on the condition of their laying a cable from Amoy to Canton; but then this monopoly would be only for the submarine cable, China would still have it in her power to deal with the land-lines at each of those places.

The agriculturists and merchants of the provinces South of the Yangtze enjoy great prosperity; their welfare is unrivalled by the other provinces. If it should come to pass that China and some other nation be on terms of enmity, the hostile power would of course reconnoitre those provinces. To entrust the management of the land lines to the G. N. Telegraph Co, therefore, is a question that cannot be too seriously forethought, as, in this case, they would be established from points at the ports, and if by some misfortune, any part of the coast should fall into the hands of an enemy, the lines

(by

by sea and land would all be interrupted,
The wisest plan would seem to be to lay
the lines ——— a little further
inland.

As the above points do not appear
to be of special importance at the present
time, the question of fixing a limitation
of years cannot be considered beforehand;
when telegraph operations are entrusted to
a public company, the proper course will
be to consider the circumstances and
requirements and to make such
arrangements as will appear fitting.
The monopoly of all the lines by any
single company must however be avoided.

The United States have long
contemplated the laying of a cable from
its shores to China. It was at first
proposed that the line should be laid via
Japan to China; but latterly, in consequence
of the great development of commercial
relations with the Sandwich Islands,
the idea has been changed, and it has been
purposed to lay the line from San Francisco
via Honolulu to Shanghai. American

vessels

vessels of war have repeatedly made surveys of the Pacific Ocean having in view the laying of this cable. Mr. Cyrus Field, an American gentleman, and the father of submarine telegraphs, who laid the line from Europe to America, and has acquired a fame for his exertions in telegraphy unequaled by any man, visited Shanghai for the purpose of observing the conditions. This fact shows that a line from San Francisco via Honolulu to Shanghai has not been lost sight of, and that the parties are there who will want to negotiate and carry out the scheme. If when the time comes, China should say to them we have bound ourselves by a contract with the G. N. Telegraph Co and have not the power to grant permission for your cable to be landed at Shanghai, America, we presume, would be sorely disappointed. Outside of Shanghai, Hongkong is the only place where America would wish to land her cable; but Hongkong being an English Colony, the American cable would not escape being destroyed in the event of war; it does not appear likely therefore that America would care to land her cable

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at Hongkong. For China to refuse to allow America to land a cable at Shanghai would be tantamount to refusing her to lay one at all (in China); while to permit the cable would be a means of strengthening the friendship of the two countries and of gladdening the hearts of their merchants and people. The writer's views as opened herein are but a general consideration of the subject, Whether permission for telegraphs has before been granted to any other power, or to the Representative of any power, or to any public company, it is not his business to discuss. China must deal with the question of telegraphs independently for herself.

July 6th, 1881.

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made

No. 22. One Enclosure.



Legation of the United States.
Peking, December 2nd, 1881.

Sir:

Chester Holcombe to
the Secretary of State.

Subject.

Official intercourse at Canton.

Synopsis.

Refers to Hon. Holcombe's despatch number 14. Hon. Vice Consul Carow has complied with the terms of that despatch and opened correspondence with the Grain Intendant. The business is thus satisfactorily arranged.

No. 22. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, December 2nd, 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine.
Secretary of State.

Sir:—

Referring to my despatch number 14. on the matter of official intercourse between the Consular and Chinese Authorities at Canton, and which covered a copy of an instruction & which I had sent to Hon. Vice Consul Carson, I have now the honor to transmit 1/22 herewith a copy of his & response.

From it you will see that the Vice Consul has

opened

opened correspondence with the Grain Intendant, in conformity with my request, and hence that this question, so far at least as our Consulate is concerned, is satisfactorily closed.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

Chester Holcombe

Enclosure.

1. Intr. Carrow to Intr. Holcombe.

No. 19. November 17th/4th 1881.

Despatch No. 22.
Enclosure.

Mr. Carrow to Mr. Holcombe.
No. 19. Canton, November 17th 1881.

Sir,—

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your No. 3. in which you are pleased to inform me that I am to consider Mr. Angell's despatch in re official intercourse as final.

I beg to reply that I have opened correspondence with the Grain Intendant in conformity with your instructions, and shall send to him all matters of ordinary business.

I have &c

(Signed) F. Carrow

U.S. Vice Consul in charge

File

No. 23.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, December 3rd/4, 1881.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JAN 17 1882
RECEIVED

Chester Holcombe to the Secretary of State.

Subject.

Receipt of instructions.

Synopsis.

Department instructions ~~~~ numbers 125. and 126. have been received.

No. 23.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, December 3rd, 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine.
Secretary of State.

Sir:—

I have had the honor to receive your instructions, numbers 125. and 126., addressed to Hon. Angell.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant.
Chester Holcombe

Miscellaneous file

In addn

No. 24. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, December 10th, 1881.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FEB 17 1882
RECEIVED

Chester Holcombe to
the Secretary of State.

Subject.

Adjustment of salary account with the Treasury Department.

Synopsis.

Forwards a copy of a letter addressed to Comptroller Lawrence upon this subject.

No. 24. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, December 8th, 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine.

Secretary of State.

Sir:—

I have the honor to transmit herewith, a copy of No. 24 a despatch which I am addressing to the First Comptroller, Treasury Department, in regard to the adjustment of my accounts for salary from January 1st 1877. to December 31st 1880.

You will see that I have received several letters from Mr. Lawrence upon this business. Hence the course I have taken

in

in addressing him directly.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

Chester Holcombe

Enclosure.

1. Asst. Holcombe to Asst. Lawrence. 36/1881. December 8th, 1881.

Despatch No. 24.
Enclosure.

Mr. Holcombe to Mr. Lawrence

36/1881. December 8th, 1881.

Sir:—

I beg leave to recall your attention to your letters addressed to me, bearing date February 28th, March 30th, and June 28th, 1881, in relation to the adjustment of my salary account, and also to a conversation which I had with you upon the same subject early in August last.

In that conversation, as also in a letter which I wrote you in June in answer to those named above, I held that my salary accounts should be revised and reduced to a gold standard upon a basis of an allowance of ten per cent for the depreciation of the Mexican dollar in which coin all my accounts have of necessity been rendered.

I am still of that opinion, and desire in this despatch to present as concisely as possible my reasons for adhering to it. In order to facilitate matters, I beg leave to submit five balance sheets herewith which will show just how, in my opinion, my accounts for salary should be adjusted, and what the

result

result would be. These balance sheets cover a period from January 1st, 1877. to December 31st, 1880. inclusive, and show a balance due me on the last named day of $1187.$\frac{14}{00}$.

The argument in support of this mode of adjustment is briefly as follows:— The Personal Instructions to the Diplomatic Agents of the United States state explicitly (see Paragraph XXXII.) that their salaries are payable in gold. All drafts for salary or other accounts of this Legation are negotiated in Shanghai and their commercial equivalent is invariably received in Mexican dollars, gold as a currency being unknown either there or elsewhere in China. It is a fact of which the Treasury Department is well aware that Mexican dollars and other forms of silver currency have been at a serious discount as compared with gold, throughout the world for the past eight or ten years. There remains therefore only the question as to the average rate of this depreciation of the Mexican dollar in China. And I beg your special attention to the following facts bearing upon

upon this subject.

The certificate of the HongKong and Shanghai Banking Corporation at Shanghai given to Minister Angell as a voucher for the negotiation of his gold draft for $750. for the rent of this Legation for the quarter ended December 31st, 1880. declares that one gold dollar is worth 80½ tael cents, and a Mexican dollar 73.6. tael cents. This certificate may be found in Mr. Angell's despatch No 82. to the Secretary of State. At that date therefore one gold dollar was worth Mexican $1.095. A similar certificate for the sale of the draft for rent for the quarter now closing declares that a gold dollar is worth 80¼ tael cents, and a Mexican dollar 74.3 tael cents, or about the same as last year. And an examination of these and similar certificates for a term of years will show you that one dollar gold has been worth from Mex$ 1.09. to Mex$ 1.11., and that $1.10. has been about the average equivalent in Mexicans for a dollar gold.

The practice in the payment of salaries and other allowances in China for a term of years past shows further that the depreciation of Mexican dollars to the extent mentioned above is not only a fact, but that it is a fact generally recognized and allowed

allowed for. Thus, for example, United States naval officers upon the Asiatic station in drawing their salaries are allowed Mexican dollars 110. for each $100 due them.

All fees and fines collected by United States Consular Officers in China and Japan are paid in Mexicans at the rate of $1.10. Mex. for each dollar gold. Passport fees are paid to this Legation at the same rate $5.50. Mex. being collected for each fee of $5. U.S. gold.

And, lastly, the various American Missionary Societies represented here, and who expend more than a quarter of a million dollars per annum in China, all allow a discount of 10% in their payments of salaries, etc. to their Representatives.

I respectfully submit, therefore, that the position assumed by me in the premises is abundantly sustained; that to adjust my accounts upon the basis indicated in your letters named above would be tantamount to a reduction of my salary by at least $.500. per annum below the amount of that salary as fixed by statute; and that hence my accounts should be adjusted upon the

basis

basis and in the manner indicated in the balance sheets sent herewith.

In relation to the statement contained in your letter of February 28th to the effect that I had not charged my salary as Chargé d'affaires from June 7th to June 30th in my account, and that hence a balance of $ 400.96/100 was due me, I beg to state that I drew directly upon the Secretary of State as by his instruction for this salary, November 12th, 1878. I however made an error and drew for $ 379.12/100 only, leaving a balance of $ 21.84/100 due me. This will all be found as stated in the balance sheets herewith.

In conclusion I beg to call your early attention to this business, and hope to be instructed at an early moment as to the manner in which I am to draw the balance due me.

I have, etc.

(signed) Chester Holcombe.

Enclosure.

1. Statement of salary account, January 1st, 1877. to December 31st, 1880.

Salary account

January 1st A. 1877.

to June 30th A. 1877.

The United States in account

Salary Account — Dr.

1877			
Jan. 1	To balance due	$ 62	55
Mar. 31	" salary quarter to date	" 1250	00
" "	" depreciation of Mexicans 10 % on $ 1260,77	" 126	07
June 30	" salary quarter to date	" 1250	00
" "	" depreciation of Mexicans 10 % on $ 1244.02/00	" 124	40
" "	" loss by exchange (see voucher)	" 5	98
		$ 2819	00

1877.			
July. 1	To balance forward	$ 308	23

Legation of the United States.
Peking, July 1st, 1877.

with Chester Holcombe

1st and 2nd Quarters 1877

		Cr.	
1877.			
Mar. 31	By draft on Messrs Morton Rose &		
	£256.17.2	$ 1250	00
" "	" gain by exchange (see voucher)	" 10	77
June 30	" draft on Morton Rose & Co		
	£256.17.2.	" 1250	00
" "	" balance forward	" 308	23
		$ 2819	00

E. & O. E.

Chester Holcombe

Secretary of Legation.

Salary account

July 1st 1877

to June 30th 1878.

The United States in account

	Salary Account		Dr.	
1877.				
July 1	To balance forward	$	308	23
Sept. 30	" salary quarter to date		1250	00
" "	" depreciation of Mexicans			
	10 % on $ 1256.95/00		125	69
Dec. 31	" salary quarter to date	"	1250	00
" "	" depreciation of Mexicans			
	10 % on $ 1254.88/00		125	48
1878.				
Mar. 31	" salary quarter to date		1250	00
" "	" depreciation of Mexicans			
	10 % on $ 1273.20/00		127	32
June 7	" salary 68 days to date		934	05
" "	" depreciation of Mexicans			
	10 % on $ 953.74/00		95	37
" 30	" salary as Chargé d'affaires			
	24 days @ $ 6000. pr. annum		405	60
		$	5871	74
1878.				
July 1	To balance forward	$	1132	97

Legation of the United States,
Peking, June 30th, 1878.

with Chester Holcombe

		Fiscal year 1877-8.		Cr.	
1877.					
Sep. 30	By	my draft for £256.17.2.	$	1250	00
" "	"	gain by exchange (see voucher)	"	6	95
Dec. 31	"	my draft for £256.17.2.	"	1250	00
" "	"	gain by exchange (see voucher)	"	4	88
1878.					
Mar. 31	"	my draft for £256.17.2.	"	1250	00
" "	"	gain by exchange (see voucher)	"	23	20
June 7	"	my draft for £191.18.8	"	934	05
" "	"	gain by exchange (see voucher)	"	19	69
" "	"	balance forward	"	1132	97
			$	5871	74

E. & O. E.

Chester Holcombe

Secretary of Legation.

Salary account.

July 1st 1878.

to June 30th 1879.

The United States in account

	Salary Account	Dr.	
1878.			
July 1	To balance forward	$ 1132	97
Sept. 30	" salary quarter to date	" 1250	00
" "	" depreciation of clericans 10% on $ 1372.00	" 137	20
Nov. 12	" depreciation of cler. on draft of this date 10% on $ 406.06	" 40	60
Dec. 31	" salary quarter to date	" 1250	00
" "	" depreciation of clericans 10% on $ 1390.99	" 139	08
1879			
Mar. 31	" salary quarter to date	" 1250	00
" "	" depreciation of clericans 10% on $ 1433.03	" 143	30
June 30	" salary quarter to date	" 1250	00
" "	" depreciation of clericans 10% on $ 1198.00	" 119	80
		$ 6712	95
1879			
July 1	To balance forward	$ 827	97

Legation of the United States
Peking, July 1st, 1879.

with Chester Holcombe

	Fiscal year 1878–9.	Cr.	
1878			
Sept. 30.	By my draft £256.17.2.	$ 1250	00
" "	" gain by exchange (see voucher)	" 122	00
Nov. 12	" draft on Secretary of State		
	salary as Chargé June 7th to 30th	" 379	12
" "	" gain by exchange (see voucher)	" 26	94
Dec. 31	" my draft £256.17.2.	" 1250	00
" "	" gain by exchange (see voucher)	" 140	89
1879			
Mar. 31	" my draft £256.17.2.	" 1250	00
" "	" gain by exchange (see voucher)	" 183	03
" "	" received for 17 passports	" 85	00
June 30	" my draft £239.7.10.	" 1165	00
" "	" gain by exchange (see voucher)	" 33	00
" "	" balance forward	" 827	97
		$ 6712	95

E. & O. E.

Chester Holcombe

Secretary of Legation

Salary account.

July 1st A. 1879.

to June 30th A. 1880.

The United States in account

	Salary Account	Dr.	
1879.			
July 1	To balance forward	$ 827	97
Sep. 30	" salary quarter to date	" 1250	00
" "	" depreciation of Mexicans 10% on $1364.16	" 136	41
Dec. 31	" salary quarter to date	" 1250	00
" "	" depreciation of Mexicans 10% on $1285.82/00	" 128	58
1880.			
Mar. 31	" salary to date	" 1250	00
" "	" depreciation of Mexicans 10% on $518.21 and $816.73/00	" 133	49
June 30	" salary quarter to date	" 1250	00
" "	" depreciation of Mexicans 10% on $505.19/00 and $798.22/00	" 130	41
		$ 6356	86
1880.			
July 1	To balance forward	$ 1067	83

Legation of the United States.
Peking, July 1st, 1880.

with Chester Holcombe

			Cr.	
	Fiscal year 1879–80.			
1879				
Sept. 30	By my draft £256.17.2.	$	1250	00
" "	" gain by exchange (see voucher)	"	114	16
Dec. 31	" my draft £256.17.2.	"	1250	00
" "	" gain by exchange (see voucher)	"	35	82
1880.				
Feb. 20	" my draft £100.00.00.	"	486	65
" "	" gain by exchange (see voucher)	"	31	56
Mar. 15	" my draft £156.17.2.	"	763	35
" "	" gain by exchange (see voucher)	"	53	38
Apr. 29	" my draft £100.00.00.	"	486	65
" "	" gain by exchange (see voucher)	"	18	54
June 17	" my draft £156.17.2	"	763	35
" "	" gain by exchange (see voucher)	"	35	57
" 30	" balance forward	"	1067	83
		$	6356	86

E. & O. E.

Chester Holcombe

Secretary of Legation.

Salary account.

July 1st A 1880.

to December 31st A, 1880.

The United States in account

	Salary Account	Dr.	
1880			
July 1	To balance forward	$ 1067	83
Sep. 30	" salary quarter to date	" 1250	00
" "	" depreciation of clericans 10% on $ 509.$\frac{61}{100}$ and $ 804.$\frac{29}{00}$	" 131	39
Dec. 31	" Salary Quarter to date	" 1250	00
" "	" depreciation of clericans 10% on $ 526.$\frac{28}{00}$ and $ 816.$\frac{72}{00}$	" 134	30
		$ 3833	52
1881			
Jan. 1	To balance forward	$ 1187	14

Legation of the United States
Peking, January 1st, 1881,

with Chester Holcombe

3rd and 4th quarters, 1880.

			£	s.	d.
1880					
Aug. 11	By my draft £100.		486	65	-
" "	" gain by exchange (see voucher)		22	95	-
Sep. 27	" my draft £156.17.2.		763	35	-
" "	" gain by exchange (see voucher)		40	94	
Oct. 24	" my draft £100.		486	65	-
" "	" gain by exchange (see voucher)		29	11	
Dec. 7	" my draft £156.17.2.		763	35	-
" "	" gain by exchange (see voucher)		53	38	
" 31	" balance forward		1187	14	
			3833	52	

E & O. E.
Chester Holcombe
Secretary of Legation

file

No. 28. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, December 10th, 1881.

FEB 13 1882 RECEIVED

Chester Holcombe to the Secretary of State.

Subject.

Salary account. 1st quarter, 1881.

Synopsis.

Forwards a statement of this account. An unintentional overdraft made which will be corrected in this quarter.

Ans

No. 25. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, December 10th, 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine.

Secretary of State.

Sir:—

I have the honor to enclose a statement of my account for salary for the first quarter of 1881, which has been overlooked until the present moment. 1/25

Through a misunderstanding between Hon. Angell and myself, I drew for the entire quarter's salary instead of drawing only to March 10th, the date of my departure to the United States. As the simplest manner in which to rectify this mistake, I

I shall, in drawing my salary for this current quarter, draw for the amount due less the amount of my overdraft last March.

A duplicate statement will follow by the next mail.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

Chester Holcombe

Enclosure.

1. Statement of salary account. January 1st to March 10th, 1881.

Mail to the Consular Bureau
Consular Archives
Dept. of State
Feb 13 1882

No. 26. Two Enclosures.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, December 12th, 1881.

FEB 13 1882

Chester Holcombe to the Secretary of State.

Subject.

Wreck of the "James Bailey."

Synopsis.

A despatch has been received from Prince Kung seeking an assurance that this case is closed. For reasons stated Mr. Holcombe has not given that assurance. Important that Consuls be directed to report such matters fully and promptly to the Legation. Wait instructions from the Department.

No. 26. Two Enclosures.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, December 12th, 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine.

Secretary of State.

Sir:-

I have the honor to enclose herewith a translation of a 1/26 despatch which I have received from Prince Kung regarding the wreck of the "James Bailey" upon the coast of Hainan in October, 1880., and the settlement of the claim presented by her master for compensation for the plunder of the vessel by the natives.

This despatch recites with much prolixity the reports & received

received from various local
authorities who had been directed
to investigate the case in question,
and is communicated to me, as
the Prince remarks, by way of
closing up the business.

I have been somewhat
embarrassed in making
answer to this despatch. The
intent of the Foreign Office
in sending it was, undoubtedly,
to secure an assurance from
me that the case is finally
disposed of. This assurance I
dared not give. For the very
meager information in the
premises which Mr. Consul
Scruggs, after several requests, at
length consented to place at the
disposal of this Legation, shows
that

that the master of the "James "Bailey" had filed a claim for damages to the amount of $7.445.75, and that the purchaser of the wreck had filed another claim amounting to $8.850.00 more; and that, on the 21st of May last, Mr. Scruggs had received two thousand Mexican dollars in satisfaction of all claims "subject, of course, "to the approval of my Government." On the other hand I have no information going to show that Mr. Scruggs' action in thus compromising claims which amounted to more than $16.000 for $2.000, was either authorized or agreed to by the claimants, or had met with the approval of the

the Department. Still further, it appears from Prince Kung's despatch that Mr. Scruggs' "settlement of the case was not made with the Chinese "Authorities, but with "persons "of repute", or respectable "citizens, as they would be called in the United States. And, "while the Consul states that this settlement was made "subject to the approval of the Department, the Chinese declare that they hold Mr. Scruggs' receipt and an agreement "under the terms of which the "natives of Hainan have hereafter "nothing whatever to do with the "case of the loss of property from "the "James Bailey"."

In

In view of these facts,
I have simply acknowledged 2/26
the receipt of H. I. H. despatch,
informed him that the business
had been referred to you, and
said that I will address him
again when your instruction
in the premises shall have
been received.

In conclusion, I
cannot refrain from calling
your attention to the fact that,
as cases of this sort are "
invariably referred by Chinese
local authorities to the Foreign
Office here, and hence as "
invariably become subjects of
correspondence between the "
Chinese Government and this
Legation, it is of the utmost "
importance

importance that our Consular Officers be instructed to make prompt and full reports to us of the details of such cases and of any negotiations undertaken by them in connection therewith.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

Chester Holcombe

4

Enclosures.

1. Prince Kung to Mr. Holcombe
   82/1881. December 9th, 1881.
2. Mr. Holcombe in response.
   84/1881. December 12th, 1881.

Despatch No. 26.
Enclosure 1.

82/1881.

Prince Kung, Chief Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, herewith makes a communication in reply.

Some time ago I had the honor to receive a despatch from H. E. Mr. Angell regarding the wreck of the "James Bailey" in a storm on the coast of Hainan, and conveying the thanks of your Government to a native named Tu Shun who escorted the men of the vessel to Kiung Chow.

Thereupon I instructed the Viceroy of the Two Kwang to communicate with the native named, and informed Mr. Angell in reply.

I am now in receipt of a despatch from the Viceroy of the Two Kwang stating that according to a report from the Intendant of the Lei and Kiung Circuit, the American sailing vessel "James-Bailey" encountered a storm and went ashore on the 17th of October, 1880. on the coast of the Wen Chang District. The crew, carrying their personal effects, reached the land. Captain Mann complained to the Consul at Kiung Cho that the natives of Tiento River village had

had taken advantage of their danger to plunder the ship. On receipt of a despatch from the Consul an order was issued to the Wen Chang Magistrate to arrest a native named Liu-shu-hsiang. But he persistently denied having plundered the vessel. A report has now been received from a Deputy acting in concert with the Wen Chang Magistrate which covers a declaration from Liu Tien fu and others men of repute in the District to the following effect:- They have resided for generations in the Tients River District. The inhabitants are poor and the land sterile, nearly the entire population gaining a subsistence by fishing. On the 17th of October 1880, an American sailing vessel named the "James Bailey", was wrecked in a gale and came ashore on the beach at Tients River village. The ship being half full of water, the crew put their personal effects in boats and came on shore. As the crew threw away at that time the ropes, chains, sails, &c. the poor fishermen gathered them up; but they certainly did not plunder the ship. They never dreamed that the Captain, listening to the deceitful words of others, would accuse them to the Consul at the port, of having taken advantage

of

of his distress to rob him of these articles, or that the Consul would address the local authorities to secure the arrest of them as plunderers and the restoration of the lost articles. Furthermore the number of fishing boats being very large at that time, it was not known what persons had taken possession of any particular articles. But the ship's compass and quadrants, three pieces in all, had been cast aside without doubt by the crew themselves, and Liu shu heiang, the headman of the village, had taken possession of them for the crew. They have already been returned to their owner. As to the remainder of the lost property there is no means of discovering and restoring it. The persons of repute mentioned above have requested certain others who were familiar with foreign matters to go to the United States Consul and explain affairs, and he had already been requested to address the Viceroy in the premises. And further the Magistrate was asked to forward this report in order that the business might, after careful examination, be closed; and to state plainly that the articles lost from the "James Bailey" on that day were undoubtedly

picked

picked up by the fishermen because they had seen their owners throw them away, ~~at the~~ time the number of persons present was not small, and it is impossible to determine now who was who. The head man Liu-shu-hsiang, has been severely dealt with and kept in confinement for more than a year because he failed to exert himself to restrain the people. May he not be released and further efforts to discover who took possession of the property be omitted? Instructions are awaited!

Still further, the persons of repute named above have produced for inspection an agreement and a receipt given by the United States Consul for finally closing up this case, under the terms of which the natives of Hainan have hereafter nothing whatever to do with the case of the loss of property from the "James Bailey".

It thus appears that Lin Tien fu and other persons of repute have come to an understanding with the United States Consul in this case, and have taken a receipt and an agreement from him, as they say, and the Consul has addressed the High

Provincial

Provincial Authorities. Hence the complaint that the natives concerned seized the opportunity afforded by the danger of the seamen to plunder their property, is already disposed of.

In regard to Lin shw hsiang, he being the headman of the village, although it is not charged that he aided in plundering the ship, yet he did not make effort to restrain the villagers, and hence he cannot be held faultless. But he has already been severely dealt with in the case, and held in custody for more than a year. He ought therefore, in accordance with the request made by the District Magistrate to be graciously released, and he and those not brought into the case, need be pursued no further. And the High Provincial Authorities are requested to address the Foreign Office with a view to closing the business.

From later reports it seems that the crew of the "James Bailey" have already gone forward to ship and break up the wreck. The Consul having asked that these persons be protected, orders were issued to the forts and

the

the District Magistrate to detail soldiers and deputies for a guard. But the property is being landed on the beach, there is no suitable place in which to deposit it, and its quantity is not known. A report has been just received from the District Magistrate saying that it was very difficult to guard the property and praying that the owners be requested to remove it. Thereupon a despatch was sent to the United States Consul requesting him to direct the owners to remove their property at once in order to avoid further loss and trouble.

They writes the Viceroy of the Two Kwang in the premises, and it becomes my duty to acquaint Y. E. with the foregoing in closing this case.

Hon. Chester Holcombe,
etc. etc. etc.

Peking, December 9th, 1881.

Despatch No. 26.
Inclosure 2.

84/1881.

Mr. Holcombe to Prince Kung,
December 12th, 1881.

Y. I. H.

I have had the honor to receive your despatch of the 9th instant referring to the wreck of the American ship "James Bailey" upon the coast of Hainan in a typhoon, and the plundering of the vessel by the natives of the Tienta River village. Y. I. H. also details the course taken by the Chinese local authorities in disposing of the case.

The particulars of this settlement as made by the United States Consul at Canton have already been reported to my Government at Washington. I will at once forward a copy of Y. I. H. communication to the Department of State, and upon receipt of instructions in reply I will again address Y. I. H.

I have, etc.

(Signed) Chester Holcombe.

No. 27. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, December 16th, 1881.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FEB 13 1882
RECEIVED

Chester Holcombe to the Secretary of State.

Subject.

Salary account.

Synopsis.

Refers to despatch number 25. and covers a duplicate statement of this account for the first quarter, 1881.

No. 27. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, December 16th, 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine
Secretary of State.

Sir:—

Referring to my despatch number 25. I have the honor to forward herewith a duplicate statement of my salary & 1/27
account for the first quarter of the current year.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

Chester Holcombe

Enclosure.

Enclosure.

1. Duplicate statement of salary account. 1st quarter, 1881.

In duplicate

No. 28. Three Enclosures.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, December 16th, 1881.

FEB 10 1882

Chester Holcombe to
the Secretary of State.

PRINTED. FOREIGN RELATIONS. 1882.

Subject.

Great Northern Telegraph monopoly.

Synopsis.

This scheme not approved by Chinese Government. Covers an official assurance from Prince Kung to this effect, coupled with a promise that an American company may lay a line between China and Japan whenever they desire. Covers correspondence and asks approval of the Department.

No. 28. Three Enclosures.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, December 16th, 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine.
Secretary of State.

Sir:—

Shortly after closing my despatch, number 24. in the matter of the Danish Telegraph Company's monopoly scheme, I learned that the Agent of the Company had renewed his efforts at Tientsin to secure the final approval of his propositions by the Chinese Government.

It therefore seemed desirable to lay before the Foreign Office your views upon this subject

subject as contained in your instructions numbers 122. and 125, both in order that this Government might know that Mr. Angell's course in the premises had been approved by the Department, and also with the hope that your opinions might have weight in deciding the course of the Chinese Government in the matter.

Accordingly I addressed a despatch to
1/28 Prince Kung a copy of which is enclosed. In it after summarizing the contents of your instructions referred to above, I asked H. I. H. to inform me officially whether His

His Imperial Majesty had approved the agreement made between the Agent of the Hanieh Company and Viceroy Li. There were two reasons for making this request. The Foreign Office, in all its correspondence with Mr. Angell on the subject had persistently confined itself to what are here called "red notes", and which are informal, do not go upon the records, and which, from the Chinese standpoint, would not in any way bind the Chinese Government in its future action. I was naturally anxious, in the first place to secure some positive and binding declaration from

Prince

omit

Prince Kung upon the subject.
In the second place, I desired
to discover to a certainty
whether the Government had
taken action in the scheme.

2/28. I enclose a translation
of H. I. H. reply. It is official,
bearing the seal of the Foreign
Office, and far more satisfactory
than I had reason to expect.
And it declares positively that
the monopoly scheme has
not been approved by this
Government.

But by far the most
interesting and valuable part
of H. I. H. reply is found in
the second paragraph which
declares that whenever an
American Company shall desire

to

to lay a telegraph cable between Japan and China an arrangement will be made "which shall not disappoint "the hopes of the American "Company in the least degree." In view of the intense and traditional conservatism of China upon this and all kindred questions, the importance of this concession can hardly be overestimated.

Having received such satisfactory assurances from the Foreign Office, I closed the correspondence by thanking Prince Kung for the prompt and explicit answer which he had given. 3/28

As the German Minister had

had acted in conjunction with this Legation in this business, I have furnished him with a copy of Prince Kung's letter.

I beg your approval of my action in the premises.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

Chester Holcombe

4

Enclosures.

1. Mr. Holcombe to Prince Kung. 81/1881. December 8th, 1881.
2. Prince Kung to Mr. Holcombe 86/1881. December 14th, 1881.
3. Mr. Holcombe to Prince Kung. 87/1881. December 16th, 1881.

Despatch No. 28.
Enclosure 1.

81/1881.

Mr. Holcombe to Prince Kung

December 8th, 1881.

Y. I. H.

In reference to the correspondence which has passed between the Foreign Office and Mr. Cugell, late U. S. Minister, upon the agreement entered into between W. E. Li and the Great Northern Telegraph Company, under the terms of which the Government of China agrees that — "within a period of "20 years from date not to allow any other "person to land telegraph cables in the entire "Empire including all foreign settlements "and Formosa"; it becomes my duty to inform Y. I. H. that Mr. Cugell forwarded copies of this correspondence to our Government, and that I am now in receipt of instructions in response. The Government of the United States has approved the entire course of the late Minister in this business. It has further authorized me to say that such a monopoly would be not only prejudicial to its interests, but also contrary to its idea of the true interests of China, as the granting

granting of monopolies of any kind is not conducive to public good.

I shall be glad to be informed, officially, whether His Imperial Majesty has or has not approved and confirmed the agreement referred to.

I have, etc.

(signed) Chester Holcombe,

Despatch No. 28.
Inclosure 2.

86/1881.

Prince Kung, Chief Secretary of State for foreign affairs herewith makes a communication in reply.

I have had the honor to receive your despatch of the 8th instant referring to the establishment of telegraph lines in China; remarking that you were in receipt of the views of your Government upon the subject which you were authorized to give to me; and requesting to be officially informed whether His Imperial Majesty has or has not approved and confirmed the agreement entered into between H. E. Li and the Great Northern Telegraph Co.

This Office has discussed this business in all its bearings with Minister Angell, a discussion with which you are doubtless familiar.

If hereafter the United States desire to lay a telegraph cable from Japan to China a satisfactory and suitable arrangement will be made and one which shall not disappoint the hopes of the

American

American Company in the least degree.

As to the propositions heretofore made by the Great Northern Telegraph Co., they were submitted by the Company to H. E. Li, and approved by him; but they have not been laid before His Imperial Majesty.

H. E. Li in dealing with this question certainly ought not rashly to enter into any arrangement which would not conserve the interests of the Government and people of China.

Honorable Chester Holcombe

&c. &c. &c.

Peking, December 14th, 1881.

Despatch No. 28.
Enclosure 3,

87/1881.

Mr. Holcombe to Prince Kung.
December 16th, 1881.

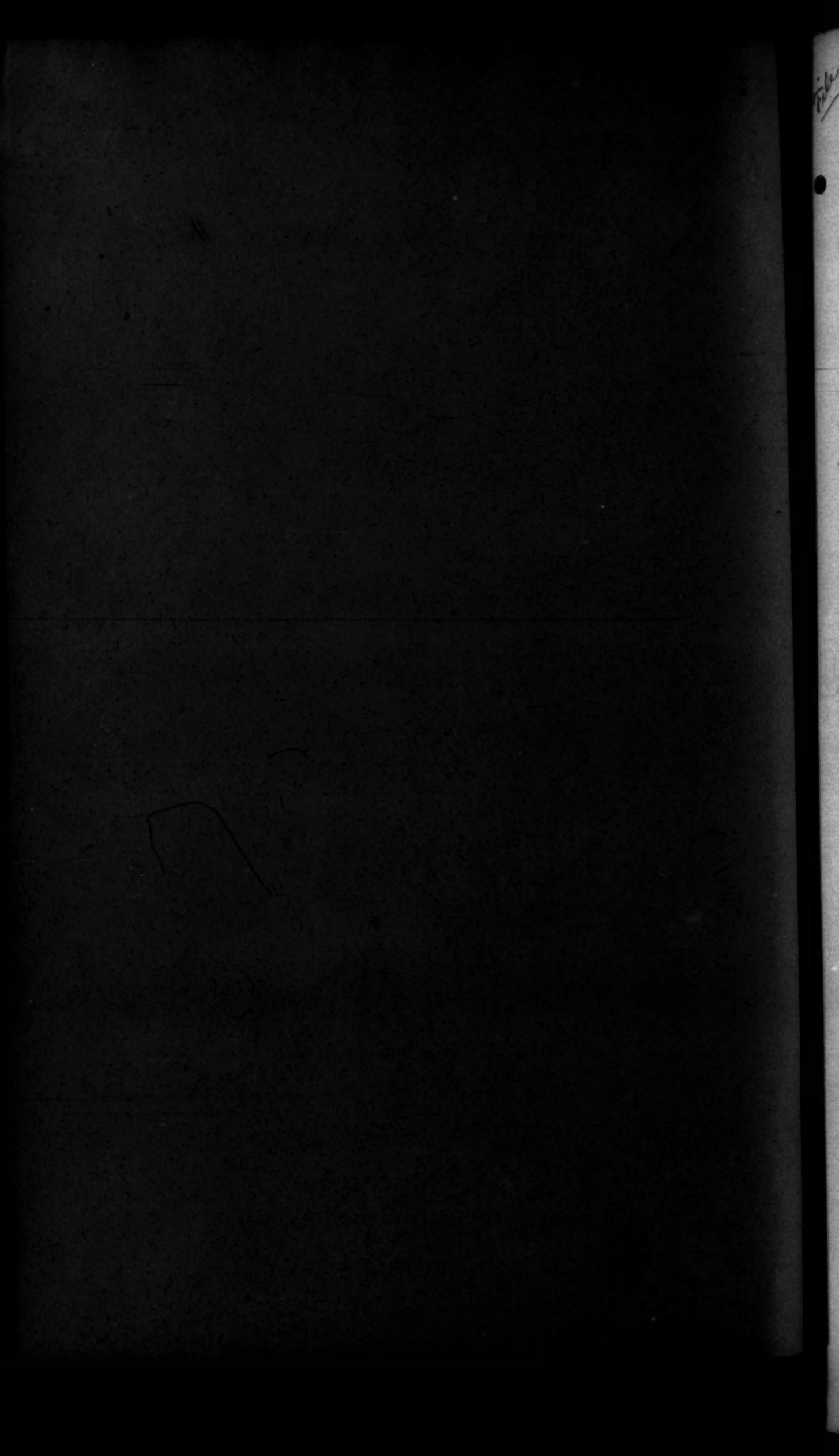
Y. I. H.

I have had the honor to receive Y. I. H. despatch of the 14 instant in regard to the agreement entered into between H. C. Li and the Great Northern Telegraph C°, in which Y. I. H. says "if hereafter the United States desire to lay a "telegraph cable from Japan to China a "satisfactory and suitable arrangement will be "made and one which shall not disappoint the "hopes of the American Company in the least "degree; and that the propositions made by the "Great Northern Telegraph Company had been "approved by H. C. Li, but had not been laid before "the Throne."

I beg leave to thank Y. I. H. both for the promptness and the explicit language of this reply. It will be at once transmitted to my Government.

I have, etc,

(signed) Chester Holcombe.



File

Inclosure

No. 29.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, December 17th, 1881.

FEB 13 1882 RECEIVED

Chester Holcombe to the Secretary of State.

Subject.

Erection of statue of Burlingame by China in Washington.

Synopsis.

Gives certain details in this matter. The Chinese Minister at Washington instructed to confer with the Secretary of State about the project.

No. 29.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, December 17th 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine.
Secretary of State.

Sir:-

While I was in Boston during the past summer, Mr. David K. Hitchcock, a prominent & resident of that city, sought my interest and assistance in a plan which had been devised of inducing the Chinese Government to erect a statue or memorial of some sort in honor of Anson G. Burlingame in one of the numerous & parks of Washington.

I explained to Mr. & Hitchcock

Hitchcock that, while I
appreciated to their highest
value the very distinguished
services rendered by Hon.
Burlingame, first as United
States Minister to China, and
later as an Envoy from this
Court to the principal Western
Powers, in placing China in
her proper position among the
nations of the earth, I could
not move in the business in
any official way, nor could
I go even so far as to broach
the subject to the Foreign Office
here.

As a result of our
conversation Mr. Hitchcock
sent to me a sealed letter
addressed to H. I. H. Prince Kung

with

with a request that I would
forward it to its destination.
This I did sending with it an
unofficial note saying that
I was in no sense responsible
for the contents of the letter &
enclosed. In due course I
received a polite note from
Prince Kung saying that the
communication from Mr. &
Nitchcock had been carefully
considered, that there were one
or two points in connection
with it on which his mind
was not clear, and he would
like to speak with me about
it when we met.

I may say just here
that while I knew that H. I. H.
would receive this or any other
suggestion

suggestion with the utmost
courtesy, I had not the remotest
idea that he would take any
action upon it further than to
make a polite response.

Yesterday I had occasion
to visit the Foreign Office and
the matter was brought up by
the Ministers present. They
expressed their great gratification
that an American whom they
honored so highly should
also be highly esteemed by his
own countrymen, and
intimated that their only ground
for hesitancy in undertaking
to carry Mr. Hitchcock's suggestion
into effect was ignorance as to
whether it would be agreeable
to the Government of the United
States

States and in accordance with its policy for them to do so.

I told the Ministers that upon this point I could not answer them further than to say that, whatever might be the opinion of our Government as to the particular act in view, it could not fail to appreciate highly any disposition to honor the services and perpetuate the memory of one of its citizens.

The Ministers then said that their Minister at Washington would be instructed to confer with you upon the subject, and added that, unless you saw some objection, the plan of Mr. Hitchcock would probably

probably be carried into
effect.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

Chester Holcombe

Dec. 19 1881
Holcombe

Telegram - Cipher

Instr. to Com. Shufeldt Jan 6. 1882. ABA

Draft: proper authentication

Legation of the U.S.
Peking December 19, 1881.

Secretary of State,
Washington,

Viceroy Li informs Shufeldt Corea willing to make treaty with U.S. Word has come from Corea.

Holcombe
Chargé

Received Dec. 21, 1881.

made

No. 30. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, December 19th, 1881.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FEB 13 1882
RECEIVED

Chester Holcombe to the Secretary of State.

Subject.

Negotiation of Treaty with Corea.

Synopsis.

Covers copy of telegram sent to Department of State. Discusses the motive of viceroy Li in proffering assistance, the relation of Corea to China, and the practical value of such a treaty to the United States. Upon the latter point further information will be sent as soon as obtained.

No. 30. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, December 19th, 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine.
Secretary of State.

Sir:—

I have just sent to the Department the following telegram in cipher:—

"Peking, 19/12.81.
"Secretary of State.
"Washington, D. C.
"Viceroy Li informs Shufeldt
"Corea willing to make treaty
"with us. Word has come
"from Corea.' Holcombe, Chargé"

This telegram is based upon a letter which I received yesterday from Commodore

Commodore Shufeldt, a copy
1/30. of which is enclosed.

It is unnecessary for me to detail here the history of Viceroy Li's intervention in this matter, and which has resulted in the message sent by him on the 15th instant to Commodore Shufeldt, as the Department is already possessed of all necessary information upon that point. You will not fail to notice the intimation in the letter enclosed that the viceroy has broached this subject to Sir Thomas Wade.

It is generally understood that the anxiety of that high Chinese official to see Corea enter into treaty relations with Western

western Powers has been the
outgrowth of a fear lest Russia
should seize the Korean
peninsula and so threaten the
integrity of China in a far
more serious manner than ever
before. And he has doubtless
correctly reasoned that, by
bringing Korea to the front and
causing her to take a place, and
to enter into treaties, with the
family of nations, he would
materially lessen the danger of
the occupancy of her territory,
and the extinction of her autonomy
by any foreign Power.

It is also whispered that
the "certain circumstances" or
conditions under which Viceroy
Li is ready to render us his
assistance

assistance in this business, as, substantially, that any treaty so made shall distinctly recognize the suzerainty of China over the Kingdom of Corea. I am unable to say whether this rumor has any foundation in truth. Nor is it for me to say whether such a condition, if proposed, should be accepted. The Department is doubtless well aware that in the two treaties made between Japan and Corea in 1876. no such recognition is to be found.

It should, however, be understood that the word "suzerainty" does not properly express the relation that exists between China and Corea, the

latter

latter being to all intents and purposes an independent kingdom. Once in each year the King & sends an embassy with presents to the Emperor who makes certain presents to the King in return. In the train of this Embassador is found a number of Corean & merchants who are permitted to bring their wares into China & and to take away their purchases free of all duties and taxes of every sort. Upon the accession of any person to the Throne of Corea a high dignitary is & deputed by the Emperor of China to proceed thither and recognize the new Sovereign. A similar & formality is observed on the part of the Corean King when a change

occurs

occurs in the ruler of China.
And thus is described the entire
relationship which constitutes
the miscalled suzerainty of
China over Corea. There is
absolutely no interference on the
part of this Empire in either
the domestic or foreign concerns
or policy of her neighbor. The
relation between the two Powers
is that of a powerful to a weaker
ally, and not that of a suzerain
to a vassal.

It may be added here
that the above will also serve
as an accurate description of the
relationship which existed for
centuries between Japan and
Lew Chew, and between the latter
Kingdom and China.

As

As to the practical value of any treaty which the United States may be able to conclude with Corea, I am at present & able to say but little. That peninsula is, to all purposes an unknown land, and the very meager accounts which have been published of its population, wealth, products, etc. etc. are derived so entirely from unreliable sources as to be nearly worthless. A & good deal has been written, comparatively speaking, of the mineral resources of Corea, but this has been based, not & upon the reports of accurate surveys, nor even upon the personal & observations of trustworthy & travelers

travelers, but purely on hearsay. It is at least safe to assume that, if that country possesses great mineral resources, they are as yet quite undeveloped.

I may add in conclusion that I am now seeking such information as is available upon all these points and may serve to guide the Department in its consideration of the question whether to attempt to conclude a treaty with Korea. Whatever information I may obtain will be laid before you at the earliest possible moment.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

Chester Holcombe

Enclosure.

Enclosure.

1. Commodore Shufeldt to Lieut. Holcombe
34/1881. December 16th, 1881.

Despatch No. 30.
Enclosure.

Semi official

Commodore Shufeldt to Mr. Holcombe.

Tientsin, 16 December, 1881.

Dear Sir:—

Referring back to the history of the Corean matter since the month of June last, you will remember that H. E. Li-Hung-chang told me that he had sent a messenger or a message to Corea advising the Government to make a treaty of amity and commerce with the Government of the United States.

The Viceroy stated that he expected an answer within ninety days, and that he thought a treaty might be perfected with H. E's assistance, which he was willing to afford under certain circumstances.

When Mr. Angell, our late Minister, passed through Tientsin en route to the United States, the Viceroy informed him that he had as yet received no communication from the Corea, although more than four months had elapsed since the message was supposed to have been sent, and he added that he did not know positively when a reply might be expected.

Yesterday (15th instant) Mr Lo-Feng-Luh

(the

the Viceroy's Naval Secretary, called upon me, authorized by H. E. to say that a Corean officer had reached here and "that Corea was now willing to make a treaty with the United States."

I sent word back to the Viceroy that I did not know whether our Government wished to negotiate now with Corea or not, but if it should be so disposed, I thought it possible that I might receive the Commission, or the authority might be conferred upon our Minister at Peking. At all events I did not think anything would be undertaken before the coming Spring.

Although this matter was supposed to be confidential between the Viceroy and myself and was brought about during my visit to him in August of last year, yet Mr. Angell informed me at Peking that Sir Thomas Wade had been asked by the Viceroy to inaugurate a negotiation with Corea, with a view to a treaty between England and that country. I am therefore inclined to think that the Viceroy has again mentioned the subject to Sir Thomas Wade, during some of the conferences which have passed between them within

within the past ten days.

The Viceroy sent me a civil message of regret that he could not see me - owing to his constant occupation, before leaving for Paotingfu on the day after tomorrow.

If you consider the foregoing message of sufficient importance to telegraph to Washington, supposing you to be in possession of a cypher, I can send it from here direct, as the Shanghai line is now in working order.

The value of a treaty with Corea would be more in the prestige than any immediate substantial results. If we are to make one, we should be the first.

Very truly yours -

(signed) R. W. Shufeldt.

file

File

No. 31.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, December 22nd, 1881.



Chester Holcombe to
the Secretary of State.

Subject.

Changes in the Chinese Foreign Office.

Synopsis.

Lao Chung tang relieved at his own request and to the satisfaction of the Legations. Chu Chia mei, a former member of the Foreign Office reappointed.

No. 31.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, December 22nd, 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State.

Sir:—

Referring to Mr. Angell's despatch, number 122, of March 5th, 1881, in which the Department was informed that the distinguished Chinese, Tso Chung tang had been summoned to the Capital and made a Minister of the Foreign Office, I have the honor to inform you that Tso, at his own request, has been relieved from further duty here and named Viceroy at Nanking and Southern Superintendent of Foreign Trade.

There

There is a decided feeling of relief in the various Legations at the departure of this gentleman from the city. For, while his ability is unquestionably of a high order, his temper and disposition on foreign questions was such as to embarrass rather than facilitate the transaction of business and the maintenance of good relations.

I see by the Imperial Gazette of today that Ichohichia mii, Lord Mayor of the Metropolitan Prefecture, has been reappointed to the Foreign Office. He has been connected with the Gaimen for years, first as Secretary and later as Minister, but

but retired several years since to go into mourning. He is a man of genial presence and good knowledge of foreign matters, and will be cordially welcomed back to his former duties.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant.
Chester Holcombe

4

No. 32.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, December 24th, 1881.

Chester Holcombe to
the Secretary of State.

Subject.

Receipt of instructions.

Synopsis.

Department instructions
numbers 127, 128, 129, 130, and
131 have been received.

No. 32.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, December 24th, 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine.
Secretary of State.

Sir:—

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your instructions numbered 127, 128, 129, 130, and 131, addressed to Hon. Angell.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant.
Chester Holcombe

Inform Commercial Bureau

Mr. Adee

No. 33. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, December 24th, 1881.

RECEIVED FEB 13 1882

Chester Holcombe (Order to Act) to the Secretary of State.

Subject.

Mr. Ford as Consular Agent at Pakhoi.

Synopsis.

Refers to Department instruction number 131. As Mr. Ford has gone to England and will probably not return to Pakhoi, Mr. Holcombe returns his commission to the Department.

No. 33. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, December 24th, 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine.
Secretary of State.

Sir:

Referring to your instruction, number 131. which covered a certificate of the appointment of Mr. Colin Mr. Ford, as United States Consular Agent at Pakhoi, I have the honor to inform you that Mr. Ford is no longer at that port. He has gone to England on a leave of absence for two years and probably will not be stationed at Pakhoi on his return to China.

under

Under these circumstances, I believe that I shall best conform to your wishes by
1/33. returning Mr. Ford's commission to the Department herewith.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant.
Chester Holcombe

Enclosure.

1. Mr. Ford's commission as Consular Agent at Pakhoi.

Mr Swetzer

No 34.

Mr St clair
to
Mr Adee

Legation of the United States.
Peking, December 26th, 1881.



Chester Holcombe
to
the Secretary of State.

Subject.

Mr. Williams exequatur as Consular Agent at Liuatow.

Synopsis.

Mr. Williams has been continuously recognized by the Chinese Government since October 26th 1878. Since Mr. Holcombe will so far deviate from Department instruction number 130. as not to apply for a new exequatur.

No. 34.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, December 26th, 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State.

Sir:—

In response to your instruction, number 130., which covered a certificate of appointment of Mr. Solon O. Williams as United States Consular Agent at Swatow, and directed me to apply for his recognition by the Chinese Government, I beg leave to recall the attention of the Department to the fact that Mr. Williams was so recognized October 26th, 1878, having received a temporary appointment from

one

me; that my action was
approved by Hon. Evarts in his
instruction, number 255. of
November 11th, 1878., and a regular
certificate of appointment was
sent to him, through this Legation,
in Hon. Evarts' number 251. of
November 7th, 1878.

As this Legation has
never received any information
from the Department that Hon.
Williams earlier appointment
had either lapsed or been
modified in any manner, so
none has ever been given to the
Chinese Government which has
recognized him as Consular
Agent at Ewatow from 1878. down
to the present.

Hence I presume you
will

will hardly expect me to apply anew for exequatur for him, and I shall content myself with simply forwarding his commission in the usual course.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

Chester Holcombe

Acted on March 16, 1882
Mr. Evarts

Last Chinese Convention offered
made

No. 35. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, December 26th U. 1881.

RECEIVED
MAR 9
1882
DEPT. OF STATE

Chester Holcombe to
the Secretary of State.

Subject.

Proclamation of the Treaties of 1880.

Synopsis.

States the steps taken in obedience to Department instruction, number 127. Explains the reasons for Minister Angell's course, and asks what shall be done with the ratified copies of the Chinese text now deposited in the Legation.

No. 35. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, December 26th, 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State.

Sir:—

I have the honor to enclose herewith a copy of a circular note which has been addressed to the Consuls of the United States in China, in obedience to your instruction number 127, withdrawing Minister Angell's proclamation of the treaties concluded between the United States and China in November 1880; and substituting therefor the Proclamation of the President. 1/35

It is, I think, due to

Inc.

Mr. Angell to say that his
course in this business was
doubtless taken in view of a
sort of precedent established
by his predecessors, the Treaty
of Tientsin and the so called
"Burlingame Treaty" both having
been proclaimed here prior to
the proclamation of these
instruments by the President.
Thus the Treaty of Tientsin was
proclaimed by Minister Ward
November 8th U. 1859., and by the
President January 26th U. 1860, and
the "Burlingame Treaty" by
Chargé d'Affaires Williams
November 23rd U 1869. and by the
President in February 1870.
It is also true, on the other
hand that, had Mr. Angell
examined

examined the records of the Legation more carefully, he would have discovered that Mr. Fish in his instruction number 9. of February 9th, 1870, criticised and condemned Mr. Williams' action.

The Department will fully understand that these remarks are made in no spirit of criticism toward the instruction now under reply, but only in order that the reasons for the course taken by the late Minister may be properly placed on record.

In this connection I beg leave to recall your attention to Mr. Angell's remarks with reference to the disposition to be made of the copies of the treaties which

which bear His Imperial Majesty's
seal in ratification. They are
still deposited in the safe of
this Legation, and I do not dare
to assume the responsibility
of transmitting them by mail.
Unless otherwise instructed by
the Department, they will, &
therefore, be retained here until
an opportunity offers to send
them to Washington without
expense by some trustworthy
person.

I also beg leave to &
renew Mr. Angell's suggestion
that, when the ratified texts
shall have been placed in &
Your hands, the original &
Chinese texts now held by the
Department be returned to this

Legation

Legation.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

Chester Holcombe

Enclosure.

1. Mr. Holcombe to Consular Officers.
Circular. December 24th, 1881.

Despatch No. 35.
Inclosure.

Circular

Mr. Holcombe to U. S. Consuls in China.

December 24th, 1881.

Sir:—

I am instructed by the Honorable Secretary of State to transmit to you the enclosed copy of the Proclamation of the President of each of the two treaties concluded between the United States and China in November, 1880.

I am further instructed to request you to substitute these copies for the Proclamation of Minister Angell, bearing date July 19th, 1881, which was irregularly issued.

Please return to this Legation all copies of the last named Proclamation on file in your office.

I am, etc.

(signed) Chester Holcombe

File

No. 36. Three Enclosures.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, December 27th 1881.

RECEIVED MAR 9 1882

Chester Holcombe to the Secretary of State.

PRINTED. FOREIGN RELATIONS 1882

Subject.

Transit Passes outwards.

Synopsis.

Refers to Mr. Angell's despatch number 212. and forwards certain papers which bring the negotiations upon this subject down to the present time. No progress has been made.

No. 36. Three Enclosures.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, December 27th, 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine.

Secretary of State.

Sir:—

Referring to Mr. Angell's despatch number 212. of September 14th, which gave the history of the negotiations between the Diplomatic Body and the Foreign Office upon the subject of "Transit "Passes Outward" for some months prior to June 20th, I have now the honor to enclose several papers which have passed between the Chinese and Mr. von Brandt, and which serve to bring the discussion down

1/2/36.
3/7

down to the present time.

These papers will serve to show you that no progress has been made in these negotiations since Mr. Angell wrote. It is unnecessary, therefore, for me to do more than to refer you to his despatch, and to remark that my enclosures form a continuation of the discussion upon two points:— 1st. Whether foreigners have a right to engage in manufacturing enterprises at the ports. and, 2nd, as to the dues and duties properly leviable upon native produce bought or manufactured at the open ports and not exported.

I

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant.
Chester Holcombe

Enclosures.

1. Prince Kung to Hon. von Brandt.
July 19th/4, 1881.
2. Hon. von Brandt to Prince Kung.
September 18th/4, 1881.
3. Prince Kung to Hon. von Brandt.
September 29th/4. 1881.

Despatch No. 36.
Enclosure 1.

Prince Kung to Mr. von Brandt.

On June 20th a despatch was received from Y. T. stating that in view of the difficulty of coming to an understanding on the subject of native produce purchased by foreign merchants, the proper course would be to follow the Treaties already in force. The despatch also contained a categorical restatement of the points relating to the trade in native produce, etc.

With regard to Y. T. assertion that native produce purchased by foreign merchants at the ports may be used for manufacturing purposes, or that it may be resold at the port, in its original or manufactured state, we have to reply that no explicit statement to this effect is contained in any of the Treaties or Regulations for Trade. Y. T. says, in respect to this, that there is no reason why the Treaties and Regulations need not be followed; but we do not know which Treaty or Regulation it is that you say ought to be followed. The purchase of native produce by foreign merchants, if not exported, but if used for manufacturing

purposes

purposes, or resold at the port, would be equivalent to allowing foreigners to do the same trade as Chinese merchants and would be prejudicial to the business of the latter. Moreover if the goods are not exported, the duty to which they are liable will be lost to the Imperial Exchequer. In view of this loss to the Revenue, and prejudice to the interests of Chinese merchants, it is the duty of the local authorities, in observance of the Treaties, and according to circumstances, to decide upon methods of procedure that will meet the necessities of the situation. And it is further desirable that this Office should consult with Y. E. and the Representatives of the other Treaty Powers with a view to reaching some satisfactory mode of procedure.

In the draft presented to us by Y. E. you presented two propositions which you suggested should be put in operation as a trial; but, as it is not clearly stated in any of the Treaties and Regulations, that native produce purchased at a port may be used for manufacturing purposes, or resold at the port, we proposed to discuss with you another method of ~~—~~ procedure which had suggested itself to us; but

Y.

Y.E. insisted that our proposition was in contravention of the letter and spirit of the plain language of the treaty, and widely divergent from the practice which had been followed for the last twenty years. We are puzzled to know how this can be.

If it were clearly stipulated in the Treaties of the different Powers that native produce purchased by foreigners at a port may be used for manufacturing purposes, or resold at the port, one naturally thinks that the practice must already have been in operation ever since commercial relations have existed at the open ports. Where is the necessity for stipulating clearly at this time, that it be introduced as an experiment? and why the necessity for stating clearly that if either of the parties sees any objections to it, (he will be at liberty to denounce it)?

In our many consultations with Y.E. on this subject of regulations for the trade in native produce, we have not failed to be actuated by sincere motives in our consideration of the subject; always hoping that benefit might result to all parties. Hoping that Y.E. will consider this subject with

(an

unimpassioned mind.

Peking, July 19th, 1881.

Despatch No. 36.
Enclosure 2.

Mr. Von Brandt to Prince Kung and the Ministers of the Yamen.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Y. I. H. and Y. Y. E. E.'s note of July 19th referring to transit passes outwards and trade in native produce in general, which questions have for some time past formed the subject of my negotiations with the Tsung li Yamen.

I have placed this note as well as the proposals handed to me by some of the Ministers at the Conference held at the Yamen on July 10th before my Colleagues, the Representatives of the other treaty powers, and I have been authorized by them to make the following statement to Y. I. H. and Y. E. E.

My Colleagues and myself are of opinion that the text of the treaties give to foreigners full liberty to transact every kind of commercial business at the open ports, subject only to such conditions and restrictions as contained in the treaties themselves or in the rules and regulations agreed upon conjointly since the conclusion

of

of the treaties.

Y. I. H. and Y. E. E. say in your note of July 10th that such liberty of trade does not exist, because it is nowhere stated in the treaties that goods bought at the port might be sold there or used for manufacturing purposes. But besides that, where permission to trade is granted, such permission must be considered as a general one unless special restrictions are added to it, the rule that native produce carried from the interior to a port may be exempted by payment of the half duty from all inland charges only if bona fide intended for shipment to a foreign port (Chefoo Convention of 1876. Section III. Art. II.) is in itself sufficient proof, that no such obligation to export to a foreign port exists, for native produce having paid all inland charges i. e. having been brought from the interior under payment of them or having been bought at the port.

The foreign merchant has further not only the right freely to dispose of native produce to foreigners and Chinese alike at the port unless the produce be brought there

there under transit pass, but he is also entitled to forward it for sale coastwise (see Regulations of October 30th 1861. III. [Hlayers p. 207]) or inland (same Regulations I. 3.) provided he pays in the first instance export duty and coast trade duty and in the second one all charges imposed on goods in transitu by the Provincial Governments.

With regard to native produce being used for manufacturing purposes the French Treaty of 1858. Art. VII. the German Treaty of 1861. Art. VI. the Belgian Treaty of 1865. Art. XI. and the Austro Hungarian Treaty of 1869. Art. VIII. give to the subjects of these powers the right to exercise at the open ports any industry they like, no restriction being attached to this Concession neither with regard to the materials to be used nor to the disposal of the goods so manufactured.

These are the views held by my Colleagues and myself with regard to the trade in native produce and which we must maintain to express the principles laid down by the treaties and acted upon until lately, when illegal attempts have been made by the Chinese Authorities at some of the open ports to put them aside. Under these circumstances

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my Colleagues and myself, while willing and anxious to unite with the Tsung li yamen in the discussion and execution of any measures which may be deemed necessary for the protection of the Chinese revenue or the better and more satisfactory execution of treaty stipulations, do not feel at liberty to enter upon a discussion of those rules and regulations laid down in the treaties which are rightly considered as the basis of the relations between China and foreign powers and which they have neither the will nor the power to alter or to apply in any other way than explained in this note.

There are however two points in Y. I. H. and Y. T. T. note of July 19th which my Colleagues and myself do not wish to pass under silence as by doing so Y. I. H. and Y. T. T. might suppose that we agreed with the views expressed in them by the Tsung li Yamen. The one is the statement that if the right freely to trade in native produce at the port or to subject it to a manufacturing process was contained in the treaties it would not be necessary to introduce it now as an experiment, or to state expressly in the arrangement under discussion that either of the contracting parties should be at liberty to denounce it; the other, the opinion put forward in the note in question that it was the duty of the local

authorities

authorities in certain cases referring to the execution of the treaties to act according to their own views and to the necessities of the case.

With regard to the first point it will be sufficient to draw H. I. M. and H. E. E.'s attention to the declaration made by me in my note of November 26th, 1880. as well as on other occasions, that the rules contained in Sections II. and III. and referring more especially to duty free goods and goods manufactured from native produce were nothing but a reassertion of treaty rights rendered necessary by the persistent efforts of local authorities to ignore them. The denunciation of the arrangement under discussion by one of the contracting parties could therefore have rendered inefficient not those treaty rights, but only such new stipulations as had been embodied in the same arrangement.

With regard to the second point, the independent interpretation of the treaties by the local authorities, H. I. M. and H. E. E. will remember that it has been at the express and urgent demand of the Chinese Government that the discussion and settlement of difficulties arising under the treaties has been transferred from the local authorities to the Central Government and Foreign

Representatives

Representatives at Peking. Under these circumstances my Colleagues and myself have the right to expect that it shall not further be left to the local Chinese Authorities to substitute their own individual views for those of the Central Government and thereby provoke discussions and conflicts not unlikely seriously to endanger the good relations between China and the Treaty Powers. My Colleagues and myself must insist that in future in all cases referring to the execution of the treaties the provincial authorities shall not any more act upon their own views and responsibility, but upon and under the instructions of the Central Government.

Having thus laid before Y. I. H. and Y. E. E. the views of my Colleagues and myself on the question of trade in native produce, I have the honor to add that as Y. I. H. and Y. E. E. in your note of July 19th have expressed the desire to see the negotiations continued I shall be most happy to resume the pourparlers on this subject with the Yamen, provided they are carried on with the view of removing the Yamen's complaints as to the illegal use of transit passes outwards and those of my Colleagues and myself with

(regard

regard to the illegal attempts of local authorities to ignore the stipulations of the treaties referring to the treatment of duty free foreign imports and native produce and the use or exportation of goods bought or manufactured in the port.

I avail myself, etc.

(signed) Jn. Von Brandt.

Peking, September 18th, 1881.

Despatch No. 36.
Inclosure 3.

The Foreign Office to Mr. Von Brandt

Sept. 29th, 1881.

On the 19th of September we had the honor to receive Y. E. despatch of Sept. 18th, by which you informed us that you had submitted our despatch (of the 19th July) and our proposals (of the 10th of July) regarding the treatment of native produce which for some time past had formed the subject of deliberation between Y. E. and our office, to your colleagues, the Representatives of the other Treaty powers.

What Y. E. says in this despatch viz: that according to all the treaties, foreign merchants have the right to engage in any Kind of trade at the open ports, is, however, only a one-sided hypothetical argument. The tenor and meaning of the treaties and special regulations is quite clear and distinct, and it does not therefore seem to be allowable, that by problematical assertions of this Kind, the danger of manifold misunderstandings should be created.

You further state that the freedom of trade is subject to such conditions and restrictions only, as are explicitely contained in the treaties or

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in some special regulations. If then, —
Restrictions of trade in order to be binding,
must be explicitely stipulated, how then,
in the reversed case, could it be lawful to
claim liberties of trade summarily and as
a matter of course even without their
having been explicitely stipulated? The
matter lies rather thus; that neither liberties
nor restrictions of trade, in as much as they have
not been explicitely stated in the treaties, can
be simply and positively claimed by way of
inference, by the one or the other party,
on the ground of one sided opinions. Far
from this. It is rather necessary that an
agreement should be arrived at on the
ground of mutual deliberations, before it is
permitted to act accordingly. If as Y. E.
holds, the simple non existence of a stipulation
in the treaties and special regulations, by which
some branch of trade is forbidden, were sufficient
in order to infer therefrom that merchants are
at liberty to engage in it, — in this case
anything not mentioned in the treaties and
special regulations, and there are a great
many such things — could just on this
account

account be permitted: yet what could the foreign Powers say, if China were to take up such a position in her relations with them?

If in Section III. Art. IV. of the Chefoo Convention it is said that, if foreign merchants pay the half duty and take out a transit certificate for this purpose, they may then transport the goods to the port, but that this privilege cannot be claimed if the native produce in question is not the property of a British merchant or if it is not really intended for conveyance to a port; this means only that none but native produce purchased by foreign merchants for exportation to foreign countries enjoys the privilege of the transit certificate and of the payment of the half duty; whereas when this is not the case, such produce is subject to the Regulations existing for the interior of China; but it follows by no means therefrom that native produce purchased at the port for which no transit certificate has been taken out need not be exported.

The 3rd Section, and the 3rd paragraph of the 1st Section of the (in Chinese so-called)

" General

"General Regulations" (of October 30th 1861) further relate to the treatment at the Custom house of merchandise which has arrived from another port, of a manufacturing process, and of a sale of goods that have not been exported at the port of purchase; the "General Regulations" do not say anything expressly at all, and it is therefore not admissible to ascribe such a meaning to them,

Y. E. further appeals to Art. VII, of the French, Art. VI of the German, Art. VI, of the Belgian and Art. VIII of the Austrian and Hungarian Treaties, in order to prove that subjects of the above named countries are "at liberty to engage in industrial enterprises at the open ports"; but this expression relates merely to the execution of sundry labors in general and means, that Chinese and foreigners are permitted to engage themselves as laborers and workmen, and work; but with the manufacturing of goods, it has nothing to do, nor does it signify that goods so manufactured may be sold as a matter of course. Each treaty stipulation in fact, has its own individual meaning and the

(different

different meanings must not be intermixed with each other.

The Treaty stipulations convened with different countries, must of course on both sides be conscientiously adhered to, and if, in the proposals under consideration it is said with regard to native produce bought at the port, that they shall be put into force provisionally, the reason thereof simply is, because the treaties say nothing with regard to this point. That on the other hand, the local authorities have the right in certain cases to adopt measures according to their own judgment; this is expressly stipulated in the Treaties concluded with different countries, and is a point which ought always to be adhered to. So, for instance with regard to the regulations now in course of deliberation in reference to duty free goods and to the manufacturing of native produce, it must of necessity be stipulated that, if the one party should wish it so, the new agreement shall again be cancelled; for the authority of convening treaty regulations rests in the hands of our Yamen and of the

Representatives

Representatives of the Treaty Powers; but whether something is advantageous or injurious, can only be determined after the local authorities have put it during some time into practice.

As regards the treatment of native produce, we do desire as soon as possible to come to an understanding with G. E. and to put the new rules into force, but only under the condition that both parties should profit thereby, in order that, what once has been stipulated should also remain in force for a long time.

The Prince of Kung and the Ministers of the Tsung-li-yamen.

File

Confidential.

No. 37.



Legation of the United States.
Peking, December 29th, 1881.

Chester Holcombe to
the Secretary of State.

Subject.

Negotiation of treaty with Corea.

Synopsis.

Viceroy Li proposes to send a Chinese official with our Commissioner. His real motive being to control negotiations. Corean Government has Viceroy Li's scheme of treaty. Some points in it, Japanese unfriendly. Probability that a satisfactory treaty can be secured.

Confidential.

No. 37.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, December 29th, 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine.

Secretary of State.

Sir:—

Since closing my despatch, number 30. in regard to the negotiation of a treaty with Corea, I have become possessed of one or two further items of interesting and, it may be, important information bearing upon the subject.

The viceroy, Li Hung Chang is evidently anxious to have treaty relations established between the United States and Corea, and has

has intimated that he would send a Chinese official in company with the Commissioner whom the United States may appoint to conduct negotiations. Professedly, his object in taking such a step is to see that our Envoy is properly treated and enabled to bring his mission to a successful termination. That such may be his minor object is very likely. But there is strong reason to believe that his more important object or motive in sending an official with the Commissioner of the United States, is to enable the Viceroy by this means to control and direct to a large degree the course of

negotiations

negotiations and the nature of the treaty made.

In support of this view, I may say that I have been privately informed that the viceroy has prepared a scheme of a treaty such as, in his opinion, Corea should conclude with the United States, and that this document is now in the hands of the Corean Government.

I have not been able to secure a copy of this very interesting paper, nor to get more than a vague idea of its general features. It is said, however, to reflect with great accuracy the views of the viceroy as to what would be a proper treaty between China and a foreign

foreign Power. Thus it embodies Article II. of the Commercial Treaty negotiated here in November, 1880., which prohibits traffic in opium; it stipulates that exterritorial jurisdiction by the United States over its people in Corea shall be temporary; makes several modifications in the articles on tonnage dues and duties as found in our treaties with this Empire, besides important changes in other directions.

It will thus be seen that, should our Government undertake negotiations with Corea, and should Viceroy Li carry out his purpose to despatch a Chinese official

official to "assist" our
Commissioner, the presence of
such an individual might
prove to be far more of a
hindrance than a help in the
transaction of the business. He
would, unquestionably, have great
influence with the Korean
Authorities and might, indeed,
render the attempted negotiation
an entire failure unless we
consented to keep within the
lines marked out in advance
by the Viceroy.

There can be little doubt
that the view taken by the Duke
of Genoa and Commodore
Shufeldt, and communicated
to the Department last year, that
the Japanese Government does
not

not favor commercial &
intercourse between Corea and
other foreign Powers, is &
substantially correct. If it be
so, then our Commissioner
would have both Chinese
obstructiveness and Japanese
intrigue to contend with in
the transaction of his business.
At the same time it is true
that these two influences would
counteract each other to a great
degree. For the Chinese &
Government is constantly &
receiving bitter complaints from
Corea of the overbearing and
abusive conduct of Japanese
officials and people towards
Corean subjects, and is &
anxious on this account to
bring

bring some other Power besides Japan into relations with her neighbor.

On the whole I am of opinion that, in case negotiations can be entered upon at all, & they can, with patience and & persistence, be brought to a & successful termination, and & secure to us a treaty which shall be reasonably satisfactory in itself and furnish a & stepping stone to something better in the future.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

Chester Holcombe

No. 38.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, December 30th, 1881.

Chester Holcombe to the Secretary of State.

Subject.

Testimonial to Monsieur Millon.

Synopsis.

Refers to Department instruction number 85. and reports a conversation had with the French Minister upon the subject.

No. 38.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, December 30th, 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine.
Secretary of State.

Sir:—

Last evening Mr. Bourée, the French Minister, called my attention in conversation to the subject of your instruction, number 85. which it seems had been communicated to him by Mr. Angell in June last.

Although Mr. Bourée merely referred to the matter, it was evident that he felt some surprise that Monsieur Hillon had not yet received the gold watch and chain which our

Government

Government had decided to present to him.

I assured the French Minister that the matter had not been forgotten, but was receiving due attention at the hands of the Department.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

Chester Holcombe

No. 39. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, December 31st, 1881.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAR 9 1882
RECEIVED

Chester Holcombe to the Secretary of State.

Subject.

Account for salary.

Synopsis.

Forwards a statement of Mr. Holcombe's salary account for the quarter ending this day.

No. 39. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, December 31st, 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine.
Secretary of State.

Sir:—

I have the honor to enclose herewith a statement of my account for salary for the quarter ending this day. 1/39

In this connection I beg to call your attention to my despatch number 25. and to ask your notice of the fact that I have given the Government credit for the overdraft referred to therein.

A duplicate of this account will be sent forward by the next

next mail.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

Chester Holcombe

Enclosure.

1. Statement of salary account for quarter ending December 31st A. 1881.

No. 40. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, December 31st, 1881.

MAR 9 1882 RECEIVED

Chester Holcombe to

the Secretary of State.

Subject.

Legation rent account.

Synopsis.

Forwards a statement of this account for the quarter ending with date.

No. 40. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, December 31st, 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine

Secretary of State.

Sir:—

I have the honor to transmit herewith a statement of the rent account of this Legation for the quarter ending to day. 1/40.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

Chester Holcombe

Enclosure.

1. Legation rent account for the quarter ending December 31st, 1881.

No. 41. One Enclosure.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAR 9 1882
RECEIVED

Legation of the United States.
Peking, December 31st, 1881.

Chester Holcombe to
the Secretary of State.

Subject.

Incidental expense account.

Synopsis.

Forwards a statement of this account for the quarter ending this day. [illegible]

No. 41. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, December 31st, 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine.

Secretary of State.

Sir:—

I have the honor to forward herewith a statement of the incidental expense account of this Legation for the quarter ending 31st day. A duplicate will be transmitted by the following mail. 1/41.

I beg you to note that I have credited the Government with $137.94 in this account, being the sum turned over to me by Hon. Angell, as stated in his despatch

despatch number 221. to the Department.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant.
Chester Holcombe

Enclosure.

1. Incidental expense account for the quarter ended December 31st, 1881.

File

Ack

Made

No. 42. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, December 31st, 1881.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAR 9 1882
RECEIVED

Chester Holcombe to the Secretary of State.

Subject.

Duty free materials for repairing ships.

Synopsis.

Forwards a series of rules prepared by the Chinese Government in execution of Article VII. of the German-French Convention of March 31st, 1880.

No. 42. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, December 31st, 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine.
Secretary of State.

Sir:—

By the courtesy of Mr. vonBrandt I am able to transmit to you herewith a copy of a set of rules issued by the Chinese Government in execution of Article VII. of the Convention of March 31st, 1880. between Germany and China, which Article provides for the exemption from duty of articles imported into China for the repair of ships in German docks. 1/42.

These

These rules have been assented to by Lw. von Brandt.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

Chester Holcombe

Enclosure.

1. Rules for the exemption from duty of articles used in German docks in China for the repair of vessels.

Despatch No. 42.
Enclosure.

Rules

1st — Whatever is used in German Docks for the repairs of ships is by treaty exempt from duty.

2d — Whenever a German opens a Dock he is to apply to the Commissioner of Customs for a form of Bond to be filled up and signed before his Consul, and which, after having been sealed by the Consul, is to be deposited with the Customs; the conditions of the Bond are these, viz: — that the articles freed from duty for repairs of ships will neither be disposed of to others, nor used for other purposes, and that if either condition is violated, the sum of Five Hundred Taels will be forfeited.

3d — In addition to reporting articles arrived for Docks and taking out landing permits in

in the usual way, a Register is to be kept at the Dock in which all goods — exempted are to be entered when received according to date and classification, and written off when used with date and name of ship repaired.

4th After exempted goods have entered a Dock, if they are wanted for any other use than repairing ships, the circumstances are to be reported to the Customs and a Dock Duty-Memo applied for; on the payment of the tariff import duty, the goods may leave the dock. Goods thus taken away are also to be written off in the Register above named.

5. The Customs may send officers to the dock to watch proceedings, and may demand the production of the Register for inspection. If Customs officers are

obstructed

obstructed, or the production of the Register, etc. refused, or if the Register is not kept written up to date, the Customs will ~~—~~ return the Bond cancelled to the Consul, and will thereafter refuse to exempt goods for the Dock in question.

The above Rules are provisional, in two years time they may be conjointly revised.

(signed) R. Hart

September 16th, 1881.

China and Germany. Revised Treaty 1881. Art. VII.

List of articles for repairing ships to be exempt from duty when imported by German Docks.

1st Metals

Brass or Yellow metal Copper Iron - galvanised Lead Steel Tin Zinc	in	Angles Bars Beams Bolts Castings Hoops Knees Pipes Plates Rods Shafting Sheets Slabs Wire

Rabbits metal
Pewter or Spelter
Solder

Hinges all Kinds
Hooks " "
Locks " "
Nails " "
Rivets " "
Screws " "
Screw-nuts " "
Shackles " "
Swivels " "
Spikes " "
Tacks " "

Boiler mountings
" tubes

Engine Cocks and valves
" steam gauges
" gongs
" packing
" whistles

2°
Timber

Hardwood
Softwood

- Beams
- Blocks
- Boards
- Crooks
- Knees
- Masts & spars
- Tree nails

3° Sundries

- Cement
- Cordage
- Dryers patent
- Felt
- Fire clay
- Fire bricks
- Glass
- Hone
- India rubber
- Leather pump and rigging
- Oakum
- Paint
- Polish
- Pitch
- Pumps

Putty
Resin
Sand paper
Tallow
Tar
Tools Engineers & Carpenters
Varnish
Washers
Wash stands
Water-closet appliances

Whatever else a Dock indisputably requires for effecting repairs.

(Dock plant — excluding tools — excepted)

(signd) R. Hart.

September 16th, 1881.

Send Copy to Senator Hawley

made

Copy to Senator Hawley
Dated Nov. 1882
Mr. Crosby

No. 43.



Legation of the United States.
Peking, December 31st A. 1881.

Chester Holcombe to
the Secretary of State.

Subject.

Chinese Educational Mission.

Synopsis.

Refers to Department despatch number 118. and reports the substance of a conversation had with the Foreign Office upon the withdrawal of the students. Fifty of those more proficient are to return to the United States and complete their studies.

No. 43.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, December 31st, 1881.

Honorable James G. Blaine.
Secretary of State.

Sir:—

Recurring to Department instruction number 118. of August 8th, 1881, and the letter from Senator Hawley which it enclosed upon the withdrawal of the Chinese students from the United States, I have the honor to inform you that, having occasion to visit the Foreign Office a few days since, I brought this subject to the notice of the Ministers present.

It is unnecessary for

me

me to repeat in detail my &
remarks to the Chinese Ministers.
The tenor of your instruction &
was kept carefully in mind, and
the substance of Senator Hawleys
letter was fully given. I was
able to speak with great freedom
on the subject from the fact
that I saw much of the &
students while in Hartford &
last summer, that I was
recently a fellow passenger with
60 of them from San Francisco
to Shanghai, and that I knew
much of the history of the &
Chinese Educational Mission,
and of the underlying causes
of its abandonment.

The Ministers expressed,
with great earnestness and &

cordiality

cordiality, their thanks for the interest which the Government and people of the United States have taken in this scheme and for the kind treatment which was accorded to the students by all classes during their residence among us. They said that, while it was naturally a source of regret to them that the students had lost so considerable an extent their familiarity with certain branches of Chinese study, yet this was inevitable and could be remedied here. They fully admitted that the recall of the students at this point in their studies was a serious mistake, and declared that

that they had done their best to prevent this recall, but had been unsuccessful in the attempt. They went even further and stated (what I knew but had not thought but to mention) that the abandonment of the mission was mainly the result of a deep seated dislike and jealousy on the part of Chen Lanpin, the Junior Chinese Minister at Washington, towards his associate, Mr. Yung Wing, who was the practical originator of the scheme.

But you will be especially pleased to learn that, upon my urging the Foreign Office to send a portion, at least of these students either a

back

back to the United States, or to Europe, to complete their studies, I was informed that it had been decided to return 50 of the more proficient & among them to our country to finish the term as originally intended. I hear from other sources that examinations to this end are already being conducted.

At the request of the Ministers I furnished them & with a copy of Senator & Hawley's letter. May I venture to suggest that, as he has & shown such interest in this business, the substance of this despatch may be, in & some

some form, made known to him.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

Chester Holcombe

No 1

Better to make
the Instrument
address June 1882.
March 2, 1882.
Jim Cridler

China

Peking 4. 1882

Dear Sir

Wade

Referring to and acknowledging the receipt of your letter dated Dec. 24. 1881 Enclosing Copy of Communication from the First Comptroller of the Treasury to Mr. Blaine relative to the accounts of Mr Jewett and myself as Commissioners to China - I can at this time only say that the expenses charged for are those sanctioned by myself and Colleague to be authorized by the special instructions of the State Department - We understood that the Department undertook to allow and pay us in addition to our salaries the necessary

expenses of going to, residing in, and returning from China
Whether this was to come out of the special fund created by Congress and referred to in the letter of the First Comptroller of the Treasury, or out of other funds in the control of the State Department the Commissioners did not know.
We made up our final accounts as required by the Department settling them at the bottom in the certificate upon which the claim was based to which I respectfully make reference.
I do not see how it is possible to make any classification of our accounts that will bring them within the Constitution

placed upon the statute by the Joint Committee of the Treasury - But before giving a final & official answer I beg ~~that~~ if it be not inconsistent with your views of official duty that the proper reply may be awaited in case I may have the benefit of his judgment and experience to advise and that the letter be treated as not official.

I am sir very Respectfully your obedient Servant

John F. Swift

Hon. J. C. Bancroft Davis
Acting Sec. of State
&c &c &c

acted & approved March 1st 1882 Wm. Evarts

approve
Olden

No. 44. Three Enclosures.



Legation of the United States
Peking, January 6th, 1882.

Chester Holcombe to
the Secretary of State.

Subject.

Attack on Mr. Sites at Yenping.

Synopsis.

Forwards further correspondence. No practical progress made in the case. Obstructive and trifling disposition of the Foochow Authorities.

No. 44. Three Enclosures.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, January 6th, 1882.

Honorable James G. Blaine.
Secretary of State.

Sir:—

In his despatch number 181. of July 8th Hon. Angell gave the Department a résumé of proceedings in the case of assault upon Rev. Hen. Sites at Yenping in Fukien province, from December 11th, 1880 up to the date mentioned above.

I have now the honor to submit herewith a copy 1/44 of a despatch which I have received from Hon. Consul Bingate forming a further chapter in this

this business, and bringing the record down to the middle of December last. As the enclosures to the Consuls despatch are so voluminous and are carefully summarized in the body of his paper, I do not enclose them.

As you will see, no progress has been made towards the settlement of this case. After endeavoring in vain to secure the trial and punishment of the ringleaders in the wanton and unprovoked assault upon Mr. Sites, our demand on this point was withdrawn, and, in the later conduct of the negotiations, we have made only the very moderate requests

that

that the chapel be restored to the occupancy of its legal holders; that the accusations falsely put forward against her sites be publicly withdrawn; and that such orders and proclamations be issued as shall serve effectively to prevent a recurrence of similar outrages at Yenping.

The course of the Fukien Authorities in the premises has from the first been trifling and inconsequential, and their above recent action forces upon us the serious question whether our leniency and moderation may not have been ill-timed and misplaced. A considerable portion of their

recent

recent discussions of the case with the Consul have been taken up with such petty and irrelevant questions as whether the chapel concerned shall be called a "Li pai tang" (House of Worship) or a "Fu yin tang" (Gospel Chapel) and, in short, not a single serious step has been taken either to right past or prevent future outrages upon our people.

In view of these facts, I addressed Prince Kung in the case immediately upon the receipt of Mr. Hingate's report. In my letter, a copy 2/44. of which is enclosed, I called H. I. H. attention in strong

strong but, I hope, courteous language to the very unsatisfactory conduct of his subordinates at Foo chow, and asked that such instructions might be given at once as would put an end to this trifling, and secure justice to our citizens.

It is but just to say that the attitude of the Foreign Office in this business has been all that could be desired, and I am much in hopes that Prince Kung will now take such measures as will put an end to this long unsettled case.

I beg to call your attention to certain suggestions which I have made to him. 3/44.

Cringate

Kingate for his guidance in further negotiations.

Asking your approval of my action,

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chester Holcombe

4

Enclosures.

1. Hon. Kingate to Hon. Holcombe No. 20. December 14th, 1881.
2. Hon. Holcombe to Prince Kung. 1/1882. January 5th, 1882.
3. Hon. Holcombe to Hon. Kingate No. 5. January 5th, 1882.

Despatch No. 44.
Enclosure 1.

Mr. Wingate to Mr. Holcombe
No. 20. December 14th, 1881.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 3, making enquiries as to what progress has been made in the settlement of the Yentsing Case since my report to the Legation in May last.

In reply I regret to have to say that a satisfactory conclusion has not yet been reached.

Mr. Angell in his despatch of June 23rd says. "The point to be gained is protection for the future." It is for this end, solely, that all my efforts have been directed since it was found to be unadvisable to press for the arrest and punishment of the chief offenders. It is this only which the Methodist Mission have desired leaving the measures devised for that end entirely with this Consulate, as advised by the Legation.

I will report what I have done since my last despatch upon the subject, begging you to note that, for nearly all the first half of this year, I was so unwell that I deemed it expedient for me to reserve most of my available strength for the current work of this office, and therefore

did

did not press the Yen Ping Case as I might otherwise have considered it my duty to do.

I enclose herewith copies of my despatches to the Viceroy dated May 26th, and to Yeh, Acting Provincial Judge, dated September 29th, of one from the Viceroy dated May 31st, and one from Yeh dated September 25th, which are all the despatches which have passed between this office and the Chinese officials, relative to the Yen Ping Case, since my last report to the Legation.

On the 8th of June I had an interview with the Viceroy relative to Russian interests, of which I was then in charge, during which H. E. himself introduced the subject of the Yen Ping Case. He said the Kienning Chapel matter was an old case which occured long before his time. Said it would be better to settle the Yen Ping matter first, and asked me to drop the Kienning Case. I told him that the records would show the case, that the whole difficulty grew out of the attitude of Kienning; that if Kienning was subdued there would be no trouble at Yen Ping; that I had consented not to insist on further arrests, but I could not give up more. H. E., or one of the Tartars, said there was now no Chapel at Kienning and (that

that made it harder to get into the city.

Hearing nothing further from the officials, I sent Mr. Minchin, my Interpreter, to see Yeh on the 9th August, giving him a memorandum for his guidance, a copy of which I enclose, Mr. Minchin was also instructed to call attention to the objections of Minister Angell to that part of a proposed proclamation which related to Missionary interference in matters relating to the converts.

Sometime after this Yeh sent me a draft of a proposed despatch from himself, and of a proclamation to be issued by the Prefect of Yenping. With a few verbal exceptions, I was satisfied with the despatch; but from the proclamation one could only have reasonably inferred that Mr. Sites had been tried for making a disturbance and acquitted; there was not even a recognition of the wrongs which had been done to him. It was very carefully worded so as not to offend the literati of Yenping. I sent it back to Yeh with word that it would not answer, whereupon he asked me to draft one myself. I sent Mr. Minchin with my draft to which Yeh

suggested

suggested some modifications. To most of Yeh's proposed modifications I assented,

On the 25th of September I received a despatch from Yeh, with a draft of a proposed proclamation to be issued by the Prefect of Yen Ping, copies of which I enclose herewith. Neither the despatch nor the draft of the proclamation came up to what I had expected, and I accordingly sent Mr. Interpreter Cowles to see Yeh on the 28th of September, and on the next day wrote to Yeh as shown by copy enclosed.

This last despatch brought Sheng, Taotai, to see me on the 3 October, when our talk was chiefly regarding the wording of proclamations. Sheng, came again, upon my request, on the 2nd of November, when I suggested the omission of three paragraphs in the Viceroy's proclamation — those relating to the leasing of land, and the interference of missionaries in suits of converts, and also the addition of the words "without cause"; as I have noted in copy of translation of Prefects proclamation, enclosed. Much discussion was also had as to the words to be

used

used to designate the chapel at the little Water Gate. Until lately the Chinese have persisted in calling it a "bookshop" while Mr. Consul Delano and I used the word "chapel". Now the Chinese do not use the words "bookshop" but carefully avoid using the words for "chapel". In the course of my discussions I have said that they need not use the term "chapel", but that they should not use the term "bookshop". I should have been satisfied with the words "building near the little water gate," were it not for my suspicions, derived from Yeh's despatch of September 28th, and the accompanying draft of a proclamation, confirmed as they were by Yeh's statements to Mr. Bowlby, that some restrictions would be imposed on the free use of the building for Chapel purposes. Sheng, now professes to believe that there will be no obstruction to the free use of the building as a chapel, but that if the usual characters for chapel are placed on the building, the people will think that the Mission may at some time build a chapel in foreign style.

Yeh

He suggests the use of the words Fu Yin T'ang (instead of Li pai T'ang, to which I said I thought there would be no objection. Thereupon he said he would write to the Prefect of Yen Ping about it. I am informed that Sheng has so written, but have heard nothing further regarding the intentions of the officials.

I think there is no doubt that it would be very satisfactory to the officials if I would consent that the chapel should be quietly placed in the possession of the Mission; and that, so far as related to the true work of the Mission, might seem to accomplish all that is desirable. But something more is necessary to guard against the apparent intent of the officials to restrict, rather than enlarge, the rights we are now supposed to enjoy.

I am glad to have received your despatch, since the mere statement that you have asked for a report, will stir the officials to some action.

I do not enclose a Chinese

(Copy)

copy of the proposed proclamation by the Prefect, as the copy which was sent to me is now in the hands of the Chinese.

I have, etc.

(signed) J. C. A. Mingate.

Despatch No. 44.
Enclosure 2.

Mr. Holcombe to Prince Kung
1/1882. January 5th, 1882.

Y. I. H.

I regret exceedingly that I am obliged to address Y. I. H. again in the matter of the assault upon the Rev. Mr. Sites at Yenping in Fukien province in December, 1879.

I had hoped that in obedience to the prompt and wise instructions of Y. I. H. the High Authorities of Fukien would long since have taken measures to close this case by securing to our people there the privileges and protection to which they are manifestly entitled under the treaty. But I am now in receipt of full reports from Mr. Consul Wingate of the correspondence between himself and the local authorities upon this business since May 16th ultimo which shows that after more than two years of wearisome effort to secure justice it is still denied to our people, and that the Chinese Authorities at Foochow are as earnestly engaged in endeavoring

to

to evade responsibility and avoid a fair settlement of this case as they ought to be in endeavoring to secure it.

Our Consul, actuated by a desire to promote good relations and friendly feeling, has, with the entire approval of this Legation, waived the demand that the ringleaders in the outrage upon Mr. Sites should be punished, and has insisted only that the false charges made against him should be withdrawn; that the chapel at Yenping should be restored to those who have occupied it for many years; and that such orders and proclamations should be issued to the officials, literati and people of Yenping as will serve to prevent effectually a recurrence of such outrages.

But it seems next to impossible to secure a concession of even these very moderate demands. The Consul is tossed like a foot-ball from one officer to another, among whom are only two who have any concern or

authority

authority with the business in hand, at every point vexatious and unnecessary delays are created, and petty questions are raised which would better become a small trader than the responsible officers of a great Empire. Thus, for example, your officials have raised an argument to show that the chapel in question should be called a "Tu yin T'ang" instead of a "Li pai T'ang"! I surely need not point out to Y. I. H. that such trifling when base justice is sought for a gross outrage upon innocent persons is alike an affront to our officers and a discredit to yours.

Y. I. H. has shown in the past by your wise instructions an anxious desire to have justice done in this business, and you will, I am confident, admit that my Government has on its part manifested a full measure of patience and forbearance. But these qualities have their limits, and I submit that the time has fully come when Y. I. H. should see that such instructions are sent to Foochow

as

as will cause your officials to do justice in the premises and close this case at once. May I beg that Y. I. H. will issue such instructions without delay.

I shall forward copies of this correspondence to my Government and hope soon to be able to report a conclusion to this business.

I have, etc.,

(signed) Chester Holcombe.

Despatch No. 44.
Enclosure 3.

Mr. Holcombe to Mr. Wingate
No 5. January 5th, 1882.

Sir:—

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No 20. with its enclosures giving the history of your negotiations in the Yenling case from May 16th to December 14th 1881.

Your action as therein reported as approved and commended.

I enclose herewith a copy of a despatch upon this subject which I am addressing to H. I. H. Prince Kung.

It appears to me that quite all has been conceded in this case that is warranted by a due regard for the grave interests at stake and the manifest rights of our people, and that it will be well to adhere in future to the very moderate ground already taken. In this view it becomes a question whether it would not be wise to decline positively to discuss such petty questions as whether the Chapel at Yenling is to be called

a

a "Li pai t'ang" or a "Fu yin t'ang."
Such a point is not legitimately within
the purview of a Chinese official
and may wisely be left to the
judgment of the missionaries
concerned.

So too in regard to the various
officials who have intermingled
themselves with this business among
whom there are only two — H. E. Wu and
the Taotai Yeh — who are recognized here
as having the necessary authority to
deal with international questions.
Would it not be better to insist on
transacting your business directly with
either of them and to decline to deal
with any intermediaries whose sole
function, as well understood by the
Chinese, is to complicate and delay
matters.

Please regard these remarks
as suggestions merely. They are not
intended to limit or restrict your
action unnecessarily nor the exercise
of your judgment and discretion in

(which

which I have the fullest confidence.

I am, etc.

(signed) Chester Holcombe.

No. 45. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, January 9th, 1882.

RECEIVED MAY 2 1882

Chester Holcombe to the Secretary of State.

Subject.

Account for telegram.

Synopsis.

Forwards account of cost of telegram of December 19th 1881. Have drawn upon the Department for the amount.

No. 45. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, January 9th, 1882.

Honorable James G. Blaine.
Secretary of State.

Sir:—

Referring to my despatch number 30. of December 19th,
I have now the honor to 1/45
forward a statement of the
cost of the cipher telegram
to which it had reference.

I have drawn upon
you for the amount in
accordance with the instructions
of the Department.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant.
Chester Holcombe

Enclosure.

1. Statement of cost of cipher telegram of December 19th & 20th 1881.

1

No. 46. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, January 9th, 1882.

Chester Holcombe to

the Secretary of State.

Subject.

Mr. Holcombe's salary account.

Synopsis.

Refers to despatch number 39.

and forwards a duplicate

statement of this account.

JMM

No. 46. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, January 9th, 1882.

Honorable James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State.

Sir:—

Referring to my despatch number 39. I have the honor to transmit a duplicate & 1/46. statement of my salary & account for the quarter ended December 31st, 1881.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant.
Chester Holcombe

Enclosure.

Enclosure.

1. Duplicate statement of salary account for the quarter ended December 31st, 1881.

No. 47. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, January 9th, 1882.

Chester Holcombe to
the Secretary of State.

Subject.

Legation rent account.

Synopsis.

Refers to despatch number 40.
and encloses a duplicate
statement of account.

No. 47. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, January 9th, 1882.

Honorable James G. Blaine,
Secretary of State,

Sir:—

Referring to my despatch number 40. I have the honor to enclose herewith a duplicate of this statement of the rent account of this Legation for the quarter ended December 31st, 1881. 1/47.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant.
Chester Holcombe

Enclosure.

Enclosure.

1. Duplicate statement of rent account for quarter ended December 31st 1881.

Dis

China

Paris, Jan. 12, 1882

Hon. F. T. Frelinghuysen

Secretary of State

Washington. D. C.

Sir.

I have the honor to inform you that I have this day drawn on you through J. Munn & Co

a bill for One Thou-
sand Dollars ($1000)
fifteen days after sight,
on account of Trans-
it allowance hereto-
fore. On the draft
I have made refer-
ence to a letter
(personal) of Mr.
Secretary Blaine to
me, dated July 14th/81,

in which he assures me that he will ab-
from such a draft
made him on my bay
here.

I trust that you
will feel justified
in protecting the draft.
I expect to sail from
Liverpool on the 28th
inst. and to report

at Washington by you
about February 12th.

I am, Sir-

Your obedient Servant

James B. Angell

late U.S. Minister to China

ack

Mr Adee

~~Mr Adee~~

No. 48. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, January 13th, 1882.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAR 9 1882
RECEIVED

Chester Holcombe to the Secretary of State.

Subject.

Receipt of telegram.

Synopsis.

Department telegram of 7th January has been received and contents communicated to Commodore Shufeldt.

No. 48. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, January 13th, 1882.

Honorable F. T. Frelinghuysen.
Secretary of State.

Sir:—

I have to day had the honor to receive your telegraphic instruction of the 7th instant in the following terms:—

" Washington, 7/1. 1882.
" Holcombe Chargé Peking.
" Congratulate Shufeldt
" on prospect of successful
" negotiation.
" Frelinghuysen
" Secretary. "

I have communicated its

its contents to Commodore Shufeldt as you will see
1/48. from the enclosed copy of my letter to him.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

Chester Holcombe

Enclosure.

1. Lieut. Holcombe to Comdr Shufeldt. 1/1882. January 13th 1882.

Despatch No. 48.

Inclosure

1/1882.

Mr. Holcombe to Comdr. Shufeldt.

January 13th, 1881.

Sir:—

I have just had the honor to receive a telegram from the Secretary of State of which the following is a copy:—

" Washington 7/1/1882.

" Holcombe Chargé, Peking.

" Congratulate Shufeldt on prospect

" of successful negotiation.

" Frelinghuysen

" Secretary. "

You will of course understand that this is response to my telegram of December 19th, of which a copy was furnished you.

I am, etc.

(signed) Chester Holcombe

No. 49. One Enclosure.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
1882
RECEIVED

Legation of the United States.
Peking, January 13th U. 1882.

Chester Holcombe to
the Secretary of State.

Subject.

Voucher for telegram account.

Synopsis.

Forwards a voucher omitted
from despatch number 45.

No. 49. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States
Peking, January 13th, 1882.

Honorable F. T. Frelinghuysen.
Secretary of State.

Sir:—

By an oversight the proper voucher to the account given in my despatch number 45. was omitted when closing that despatch.

I beg leave to enclose it herein with many apologies for the oversight. 1/49.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant.
Chester Holcombe

Enclosure.

Enclosure.

1. Voucher for despatch number 45.

No. 50. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, January 14th, 1882.

APR 7 1882

Chester Holcombe to the Secretary of State.

Subject.

Incidental expense account.

Synopsis.

Refers to despatch number 41, and forwards a duplicate of this account for the quarter ended December 31st, 1881.

Filed

No. 50. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, January 14th, 1882.

Honorable F. T. Frelinghuysen

Secretary of State.

Sir:—

Referring to my despatch number 41. I have the honor to enclose a duplicate & 1/50. statement of the incidental expense account of this Legation for the quarter ended December 31st, 1881.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

Jeheste Holcombe

Enclosure.

Enclosure.

1. Duplicate of incidental expense account for quarter ended December 31st A. 1881.

What are these claims?

made

No. 51. Two Enclosures.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, January 16th, 1882.

Chester Holcombe to
the Secretary of State.

Subject.

The "Ward" and "Keojee" claims.

Synopsis.

Forwards copies of recent correspondence had with Prince Kung, and gives an account of an informal proposition for the settlement of the claims made by the Ministers of the Foreign Office. Mr. Holcombe declined to discuss the proposition. Asks approval of course taken.

No. 51. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, January 16th, 1882.

Honorable F. T. Frelinghuysen.
Secretary of State.

Sir:—

I have the honor to submit herewith for your inspection a copy of a despatch which 1/51.
I addressed to the Foreign Office in December last regarding the "Ward" and "Georjeon" claims, together with a translation of the response 2/51.
made by Prince Kung.

Mr. Angell, in his despatch number 202. of August 15th, furnished the Department with copies of his last correspondence

with

with the Chinese Government upon these claims. The rejoinder of Prince King to Sir. Angell is full of misstatements which it seemed to me unwise to let pass uncontradicted.. To correct these, and to keep before the minds of the Ministers of the Foreign Office the views of our Government regarding the claims, were the more immediate objects of my despatch.

In doing this I spoke with a very considerable degree of plainness, more particularly in reference to the propositions made to me, by Shen, Viceroy at Nanking, in June 1877, and behind which the Foreign Office have

have taken refuge in all discussions of this subject for the last four years.

Upon this point I declared plainly that the United States could not be expected to admit that Shen had shown either a "conciliatory spirit" or a "generous motive" in his propositions; that they had been positively declined as soon as made; and that it was idle to refer to them as they would never be accepted by our Government as a just basis of settlement.

In order to show beyond all possibility of misconception what were the views of the Department regarding these claims,

I

I forwarded to the Prince, with my despatch, a copy of Mr. Blaine's instruction, number 101. of June 8th to Mr. Angell.

The reply of the Prince needs no comment. It travels over the old ground which is wearisomely familiar, and, by itself, indicates no change in the disposition of the Chinese Authorities.

That my despatch made more impression upon Prince Kung than was apparent from his response, appeared from a subsequent conversation which I had with the Ministers of the Foreign Office.

Having gone thither to speak about some other business,

the

the Ministers present brought up the "Ward" and "Keegan" claims, and, after expressing a strong desire to see them removed from the arena of discussion, and reiterating what they had so often said about the difficulty of paying them in the absence of documentary evidence, stated that they had a proposition to make to me in the premises, if I were ready to receive it as entirely unofficial and informal.

In response I said to the Ministers that I should not feel bound to notice or respond in any way to a proposition made under the conditions mentioned, but, with this

this proviso, that I would
listen to what they had to say.

They then mentioned
the so called "Canton Indemnity
"Fund", and after much
explanation, the main point
of which being that the
Foreign Office was well aware
that the United States was neither
legally nor morally bound to
return the existing surplus to
China; that they had never
asked any questions regarding
this fund, and only learned
of the existence of a surplus
from the recommendations
made to Congress by several
Presidents that it be returned
to China, and more especially
from the effort made in 1878.

to

to have it contributed to relieve the famine then raging in this Empire, the Ministers came to their proposition, which, to quote their own language was this:- "If the United "States will return the surplus "of the "Canton Indemnity Fund" "to China, China will pay the "" "Ward" and "Keojeou" claims, "principal and interest."

They added that the proposition was made by order of Prince Kung, and that their reasons for making it informal and unofficial would be seen at once, as China could not make a formal request or suggestion for the return of the surplus referred

referred to. It was brought
forward in a private and
friendly way as a possible
means of closing matters
which had been for many
years a source of dispute
between the two Governments.

In reply I simply
said that I had no authority
or right to consider, or to discuss,
for a moment even, their
proposition. And this ended
the conversation.

I have long believed
that the knowledge on the
part of the Foreign Office of
the existence of the surplus
fund referred to has been a
serious bar to any action looking
toward the payment of the "Gold"
and

and "Keorjeou" claims. It remains with the Department to decide what notice, if any, is to be taken of the proposition given herein. It will not be touched upon by me in future correspondence with the Foreign Office, unless in obedience to your instructions.

I beg leave to suggest that, in case the Department desires to press these claims urgently upon the Chinese Government, the advisability of bringing them to the notice of their Minister at Washington. Such action would, in my opinion, greatly facilitate negotiations here.

Asking your approval

approval of my course as
herein described.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

Chester Holcombe

4

Enclosures.

1. Mr. Holcombe to Prince Kung.
   90/1881. December 27th 4, 1881.
2. Prince Kung in response.
   2/1882. January 8th 4, 1882.

Despatch No. 51.
Inclosure 1.

90/1881.

Mr. Holcombe to Prince Kung,
December 27th, 1881.

Y. I. H.

It has become my duty to recall the attention of Y. I. H. and the Ministers of the Foreign Office to the so-called "Ward" and "Kerojer" claims, and to ask in behalf of my Government that immediate steps be taken for their liquidation.

These claims are in amount as follows:—

Ward Claims

Principal Ts 10.093.16 and
Mex. $ 5.694.37

and interest at 10% per annum from March 1st 1864. to date of payment.

Kerojer Claim

Principal Ts. 54.000.

and interest from August 1st 1863. to date of payment.

I have read carefully Y. I. H.'s despatch of August 11th to Mr. Angell upon this subject and feel bound to correct one or two erroneous statements made therein in regard to the history of these claims.

Y.

Y. I. H. states that Woo, Taotai, paid without objection the accounts of all other steamers except the Kerjeor's, which account he disputed item by item; that Mr. Hill waited till Take was dead and then Commissioned Dr. Yates to apply to the heirs for payment; that Take's widow asked Dr. Yates for the charter party which he could not produce, and hence she refused to pay the claim; Y. I. H. further intimates that Mr. Hill purposely waited until the lapse of time and the death of the parties most closely concerned should render detection difficult in order to present a fraudulent claim.

I pass by the very plain inference from this language that the United States is either Mr. Hill's victim or his accomplice in the presentation of a groundless claim, for I am entirely convinced that Y. I. H. did not really mean to convey such an impression.

But the facts in the history of the Kerjeor claim are widely different from the statements made above by Y. I. H., as the following will fully show.

The

The steamer "Kerjeor" was chartered by Yang Taker as the Agent of the Chinese Government in June, 1862. She was captured by the Rebels August 1st, 1863. At that time therefore there was due her owner 14 months hire at Ts 3,000 pr month, and Ts 12,000 indemnity for her loss, making a total of Taels 54,000. In 1863. this claim accompanied by the charter party was placed before certain arbitrators named by Wos. Taotai, and Mr. Seward and by them allowed in full. As Wos. Taotai, still refused to pay many of the claims, a second arbitration took place in 1864. when this claim was again presented. It was not considered for the sole reason that these arbitrators were limited to claims incurred by Wos, and this claim was against Taker. Taker died in 1865. Thereafter Mr. Hill presented his claim to Taker's widow and son and was told that he must wait until the period of mourning was over. Later, Dr. Yates presented the claim to the widow, at Mr. Hill's request, the latter being absent from China, and was then told that she would only pay when

the

the charter party was produced. Curiously enough in the meantime this document had either been lost or stolen from the United States Consulate General in Shanghai, through no fault or error on the part of Mr. Hill. From 1868. to 1872. either Consul General Seward or Mr. Hill was absent from Shanghai, and so the claim could not be pressed. But in 1874. suit was brought against Takee's heirs for the amount due, and the matter has not been allowed to rest since.

It will thus be seen that the assertion that Mr. Hill purposely allowed his claim to rest until no witnesses could be brought against him is totally without foundation in fact. On the contrary his claim has been pressed as vigorously as the circumstances would allow for 18 years, and it is neither his fault nor the fault of the Government of the United States that it has not long since been settled.

Y. I. H. has repeatedly stated, both in earlier despatches and in that under review, that "it was in a conciliatory spirit that "the Viceroy Shen made his proposals for the

"the adjustment of these claims in 1877." And you also say that Mr. Angell "is misapprehending "the generous motive of China" &c. &c. Y. E. H. surely cannot expect that the Government of the United States will accept of any such language as correctly describing the action of Viceroy Shen. In the world generally it is not considered that a debtor shows "either a "conciliatory spirit" or a "generous "motive" in offering to his creditor a mere fraction of his due. And Y. E. H. has been repeatedly informed that the United States holds the Government of China bound both by every principle of justice and equity to pay these claims in the amounts which have been so often and so patiently presented. H. E. Viceroy Shen was told the same day, nay, the same hour that his propositions were made that they could not even be considered. They never will be accepted as a just and equitable basis for the settlement of these claims. It is idle and useless to mention these propositions.

The considerations which have led the Government of the United States to

hold

hold that of China responsible for the amounts named above have been so often and so fully laid before Y. I. H. that it is quite unnecessary to repeat them here. It is hopeless to expect that my Government will withdraw from the position it has taken, or will be satisfied until these just obligations are met in full.

It must remain therefore for Y. I. H. to decide whether it is wiser for Your Government to meet these claims at once in a just and dignified manner, or to prolong for coming years a occasionne discussion of a matter which is a serious source of friction between the two Powers, if, indeed, it is not an actual menace to their good relations. I beg to submit this very important question for the careful consideration of Y. I. H.

In order to show beyond all possibility of misconception what are the views and decision of my Government in these claims I enclose an exact copy in English of an instruction received from the Department of State a few months since,

And

And I beg Y. E. H. to favor
me with an early reply

I have, etc.

(signed) Chester Wolcombe.

Despatch No. 51.
Enclosure 2.

2/1882,

Prince Kung, Chief Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, herewith makes a communication in reply.

Upon the 27th December, I had the honor to receive your despatch upon the "Ward" and "Kerjeor" claims, stating that it had become your duty to recall my attention to them, and to ask in behalf of your Government that immediate steps be taken for their liquidation. You added that it must remain for me to decide whether it is wiser for my Government to meet these claims at once in a just and dignified manner, or to prolong for coming years a wearisome discussion of a matter which is a serious cause of friction between the two Powers, if, indeed, it is not an actual menace to their good relations. And you enclosed a copy of a recent instruction from your Government upon these claims.

In reply I beg leave to observe that the "Ward" and "Kerjeor" claims

have

have been discussed for many years with the utmost thoroughness of language. Last year Minister Angell addressed this office upon these claims adding to them the "Ward Estate" claim. Inasmuch as Mr. Angell had been in China only a short time this Office in replying to him explained with great clearness the particulars of each item in the demand.

But you have been in China many years and have for many years discussed this business, and you must know that questions of claims must be decided by documentary evidence.

Some years since the Ministers and I, keeping specially in mind the good relations of the two Governments, thought to get this business in motion and accordingly instructed H. E. Shen to devise a plan of settlement. H. E. Shen did not examine into the entire question but fixed the amount to be paid in each item according to his own ideas. This was not at all in accord with our idea in devising this scheme for adjustment, but as his word

had

had been passed it was thought best
to act accordingly. Hence we replied
to Minister Angell that "if he would
"accept the propositions of H. E. Shen
"this office could make no objection".
But now you also hold that the
propositions of Shen are only so
many useless and idle words, and
request me to meet these claims at once
in a just and liberal spirit. The Prince
and Ministers endeavor not to fail
to exercise justice and liberality in any
business. But in the matter of Chinese
and foreign accounts they must all be
based on written proof. Those furnished
with such evidence are easily paid and it
is difficult to pay such are unsupported
by such evidence. It is now held that
these claims, which are unsupported
by written proof, must be paid in full.
If the Prince and Ministers should do
this in order to purchase a reputation
for liberality, and not deal with the
business according to actual justice, such
a procedure would not seem to be

consistent

consistent with a proper adjustment of the business.

In reference to your remark about prolonging for coming years a serious source of friction if not an actual menace to the good relations of the two Powers, I beg to reply that China and the United States have been constantly on terms of the firmest friendship and it is believed that the Honorable Secretary of State will examine into this business in a spirit of justice and liberality and not allow claims which have no documentary proof to breed discord between us.

Hon. Chester Holcombe,
etc. etc. etc. etc.

Peking, January 8th, 1881.

No. 52.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, January 18th 1882.

Chester Holcombe to
the Secretary of State.

Subject.

Receipt of Department instructions.

Synopsis.

Instructions numbers 132. to 138. inclusive, Circular dated November 25th, 1881, and certain books have been received.

No. 52.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, January 18th, 1882.

Honorable F. T. Frelinghuysen.
Secretary of State.

Sir:-

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Department instructions numbers 132. 133. 134. 135. 136. 137. and 138.; and also of a circular dated November 25th 1881. inquiring whether vessels of war of the United States are permitted to purchase supplies duty free from the public warehouses when in the ports of China.

By the same mail,

I

I received one copy each of the following volumes:—
"Supplement to the Revised
"Statutes of the United States.
"Vol. I. 1874.–1881."; "Statutes
"of the United States, passed
"at the third session of the
"Forty Sixth Congress, 1880.–81";
and "Consular Regulations
"edition of 1881."

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant.
Chester Holcombe

Navy (Treasury)

Under

Sec. of Treasury Apr. 10. 1882 Circular

No. 53.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, January 18th, 1882.

Chester Holcombe to
the Secretary of State.

Subject.

Duties on supplies for vessels of war.

Synopsis.

In response to Circular of November 25th, 1881. states that there are no public warehouses in China, and no special privileges of the kind described are granted. All "ships stores," and material for repair of ships in German docks in China are duty free.

No. 53.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, January 18th, 1882.

Honorable F. T. Frelinghuysen.
Secretary of State.

Sir:—

In response to Department circular of November 25th, 1881., in which I am instructed to report whether United States vessels of war when in Chinese ports are allowed to purchase supplies, duty free, from the public warhouses, I have the honor to state that the Government of China maintains no public warhouses of the kind referred to, and that the privilege of purchasing supplies

supplies, duty free, is not & specially accorded to our & vessels of war in Chinese ports.

It should, however, be noted that, by the Trade Rules attached to the Treaty of & Tientsin, "ships stores" pay no import or export duty, and that, by the Convention of March 31st 1880, between Germany and China, & material used for the repair of ships in German docks in China may be imported free of duty.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

Chester Holcombe

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
APR 8 1882
RECEIVED

No. 1

Tientsin, China.
January 25th 1882.

Hon.
Robert R. Hitt.
Asst. Secy of State.
Washington. D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt, through the U.S. Consulate General at Shanghai, of despatches from the Hon. Secty of State, of Nov 15. 1881. containing my credentials as Envoy to the Corea. State Dept. instructions & other documents essential to the performance of the duty assigned me for the negotiating of a treaty between the U.S. & that country.

I have to thank the Dept. for the liberal terms of my instructions & will endeavor to fulfil them to its satisfaction.

There are one or two points, which after my reading as I write, now to have the mail occur to me for the further consideration of the

Hon: Secretary of State. namely: there is no provision for an interpreter, nor authority to employ one: the time in a country where time is not taken into account, & where communication & travel are slow & difficult, seems to me too limited.

Gensan is a Japanese settlement quite distant from the Capital, & although it may seem advisable to go there, yet I suggest that the mouth of the Seoul river, within thirty miles of the east of Gensan will probably prove more convenient as well as more desirable for conducting a negotiation.

I will write fully in a few days of the present state of things in Corea, & of the reason why China is anxious to get Western Powers into treaty with it.

I enclose herewith a paper written by a gentleman of ten years residence in Japan & China, & thoroughly conversant with the politics of both countries. It may interest the

Departm

in so far as it shows their connections as well as their antagonisms in Corea. It endeavors to point out the duties of Western Nations towards Corea.

I am very respectfully
your obedient servant
R. W. Shufeldt
Commodore U.S.N.

y for
...dar Skufeldt.
N.
...in 18/12/81. — Korea. China and Japan.

It is well known in Peking that the Japanese occupation of the settlements on the Korean peninsula has, from the first, been a source of mortification to the Chinese government which, however, first on account of the dreadful succession of years of famine, and, secondly, by reason of the anxieties of impending war with Russia, (probably with Russia allied to Japan) has never ceased to counsel the government of Seoul to bear with the utmost patience the usurpations and bad conduct of the Japanese officials and residents in Foo-san and Gen-san.

The time has now come in which a change must be made, and we are disposed to await with foreboding — on account of the many serious immediate and tentative issues involved — what will certainly prove to be a reason for angry question or quarrel between China and Japan.

In 1873 a strong party of the Mikado's ministers, including Kuroda and the elder Saigo, were in favor of sending a Japanese invading force to Korea to avenge various small but disagreeable affronts. The Korean King, for one instance, had repulsed with scorn some overtures of the Mikado by a written rebuff in which Japan and all its new ways was devoted to the Korean equivalent

of Tophet. The rude answer gave great offence, which still rankles, and in this circumstance we are reminded that a slighting expression in a letter addressed by the Czar Nicholas to the third Napoleon had a potent effect in the estrangement of France from Russia, and was actually a distinct factor in bringing about the Crimean war. The whole question of the Korean answer, and the troubles it worked, is discussed in the strange and moving memorial written by the ex-Sanghi Mayebara in the few hours that preceded his decapitation. It would appear from this last testament — of which we ourselves possess one of the few authentic copies — that the quarrels amongst the Japanese ministers of the time who were for or against an attack on Korea, were never healed. Yoto and Mayebara, after vain revolts, lost their heads; Saigo stood aloof from his old associates, and, when Satzuma was crushed, died a soldiers death. And it is certain that the murder of Okubo was one of the last lamentable acts which distinctly grew out of the Korean King's scorning and its consequences.

Indeed, when the Japanese troops were gathering in Nagasaki in the early summer of 1874, the Mikado's ministers, who desired above all things to get rid of the too troublesome spirits of the unregenerate

samurai, had rest until news came to Tokio that some transports had left Nagasaki for Formosa, decided whether to make a raid upon Korea or the island of Formosa. Kuroda and some of his allies were in favor of an attack on Korea, but during 1873 — a year before the event — special preparations had been made for the occupation of Formosa, and some of the Japanese ministers were for invading the Chinese island as it would yield sugar and petroleum, and, when it became a Japanese possession, would lay the Loochoo question at rest for ever. Some viceborodinate Satzuma men of the force ended all vacillations by deciding that the Korean winter was too cold for comfort, and that as Japan wanted sugar it was necessary to invade Formosa. Whereupon some transports put to sea, without regarding the expostulations of the commanders, and as the Tokio cabinet thought it best to condone what was really a mutiny, the younger Saigo was ordered to follow his unruly troops, and the government of Japan by this and subsequent acts accepted all responsibilities of the unprovoked and hostile invasion and occupation of Chinese territory.

The Koreans were left in peace awhile, but did not get off scot free, as in 1875 after some Japanese gunboats, the Unyokan

and another, had fulfilled the object of their visits to the Korean shores by drawing fire and so giving some specious pretences for a guarrel, the ex-finance minister of Japan, M. Inouye Bunda, who had been expelled from the cabinet of Tokio for publishing an able and sagacious exposé of the devious courses and inevitable ends of Japanese finance, was nominated with Kuroda to serve on a special mission to Korea, and to bear an ultimatum whose rejection would be followed by war.

M. Inouye Bunda at this time was in disgrace. He had prophesied evil things, and all that he said has been justified; for his predictions have come true in these latter days. He was also in discredit on account of a copper mine, whose possession brought him discomfort without end. He was, however, known to be astute, and had much power over his old colleagues, as he was acquainted with many secrets; in fact, to use the French phrase, "Knew where the body was hidden". He went to the Korea escorted by a small fleet, and with troops not far off. China at the time was in evil case and unwilling — probably unable — to give overt help to Korea. As armed help could not be given, advice was sent in plenty to Seoul. The Korean ministers were told to submit without resistance, and they took the advice more

literally than was agreable to Peking, as Mr. Inouye brought back to Tokio an extravagant treaty that virtually gave to Japan all the powers of a protectorate in Korea. The treaty was, on account of its immoderation, much scoffed at by the foreign ministers in Tokio, who said to Mr. Terrashima, Japanese minister for foreign affairs, that the document would become mere waste paper whenever any power thought fit to declare it a futility, and that probably its very quality of inordinate exaction would at some time turn to the hurt of Japan. The Japanese ministers thereon adroitly addressed themselves to the European courts and to Washington; declared purity of motive and utter disinterestedness, and gave utterance to holy sentiments upon the blessings of a mild spirit of beneficent civilization and the needs of the Koreans then in the outer darkness of barbarism and isolation. The end of the farce was that Lord Derby, the French, German, Russian and American cabinets, who had weightier matters to occupy them, debated that while neither formal nor implied sanction should be given to the acts of Japan, no contrary action was to be taken by the representatives or forces of the treaty powers.

The Japanese began fairly, and had the power of benefitting the Koreans and

of fostering Japanese trade at the same time, but for some reason not yet fully ascertained, which might well be the dislike or hostility of the Korean people to the Japanese intruders, bad feeling sprung up, and before long the Japanese did to the people of Fooosan and Gen-san just what the Egyptian task-masters did to the children of Israel, and, as cruelty grows in ignoble natures, the occupation of Fooosan and the other settlements became a grievous wrong to the miserable natives, all the more hard to bear because the Korean government is atrociously bad, and the kingdom has suffered from a succession of horrible famines. From time to time the Koreans sent piteous appeals to China, but China, although much pained and hot with indignation, was in no position to give Japan a valid pretext for open alliance with Russia. That the Japanese government knew well how vilely its people behaved is certain, and when the official accounts of the visits of the U.S. ship Ticonderoga and the Italian frigate Vettor Pisani are published, we will read how the helpless and unhappy people have been oppressed, and the feeling that will be evoked will cost Japan dear.

The odious matter has again come up and, sooner or later, must engage the serious attention of China as the Empire

— to speak discreetly — is now freed from certain pressing anxieties about possible combinations. Korea is a tributary of China, and Peking has at least the lawful right, whenever it chooses to exercise it, to regard the Japanese treaty and occupation as forming a casus belli, and at some convenient and not remote time may take action with the approval and support of all the treaty powers, unless Japan either retires or so controls the conduct of her officials and people as to remove all grounds of grievance.

The political bearings of the question are so serious, that while China may well hesitate before she takes action, Japan has even greater reason for dreading what may be in store for her. If, as is probable, the Koreans revolt against the vile oppressions to which they are subjected, Japan would send troops to the peninsula. Such a step would precipitate an explosion, as China, unwilling as she is to go to war at this time, would be compelled to send troops also, and she would send the best she has, those of the Viceroy Li's army. The rival fleets would soon come to blows, and of a few dozen trained foreigners should be distributed in the Canton, Foochow, and Tientsin (Armstrong) vessels — the Shanghai squadron does not count — the Japanese ships of war would be carefully hunted and destroyed. If,

however, a Japanese corps d'armée, or even a division, could land on Korean ground with an adequate supply of ammunition and stores, and contrived to keep up communications with Japan, China would find herself engaged in a difficult and entangled enterprise whose complexities would increase every day. Russia must be reckoned with by China as well as by Japan. At Vladivostok there are troops enough to take and hold Port Lazareff, and to enable the Russian commander, when he chose to do so, to prevent the assemblage of Japanese troops & ships at Tsushima. The third battalion would show Russia in firm possession of Port Lazareff, a strategic position that would enable her to dominate over Japan and to bear with great stress on Northern China. Japan would lose Tsushima and, perhaps, Yesso; and China would be environed by a host of new perplexities and dangers along her whole northern line, from east to west.

The treaty powers have a right to intervene against Japan. Japan gave solemn promises to act well in Korea, and all the promises have been shamelessly broken. The successive and iniquitous treaty of Imouye will fly to pieces at a touch, and it would be right and just that the Western powers, with or without the concert of China, should make

a declaration by the cabinet of Tokio that would be more authoritative than a mere remonstrance. For such a course there are ample reasons of international polity, but if a commission of delegates from the treaty powers should be ordered to visit Fousan, justification of interference would be given not on account of international morality but on the broader grounds of duty to humanity.

The behavior of Japanese subjects in Korea is a sorry comment on the pretentions and professions of the ambitious Empire, and the offence to civilization has become a danger to the Mikado's government. The time has come for making an end to the oppressions and brutalities done to the Koreans. China has a right to take up the duties imposed on her by a long suzerainty, but the Western powers have also a right to deliver a mandate that will not be disregarded by the Japanese government. And if Japan should be chastised and humbled for her acts on the Korean soil, she will deserve no sympathy, and will have none.

(Ans)

File

Act

Made

No 54. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, January 21st, 1882.

Chester Holcombe to
the Secretary of State.

PRINTED.
FOREIGN RELATIONS.
1882

Subject.

The "Woosung Bar."

Synopsis.

Covers a newspaper extract showing that the Chinese Authorities are, at last, taking measures to dredge the bar, and deepen the channel.

No. 54. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, January 21st, 1882.

Honorable F. T. Frelinghuysen.
Secretary of State.

Sir:—

Referring to the voluminous correspondence between this Legation and the Department in regard to the "Woosung Bar," and the repeated efforts made to secure the removal of this very serious obstruction to the commerce of Shanghai, I have the honor to enclose, 1/54. herewith, a newspaper extract from which the Department will learn with pleasure that steps have at last been

taken

taken by the Chinese &
Authorities to dredge the bar
and deepen the channel of
water communication between
Shanghai and the sea.

I have no further
information as to the details
of the scheme than may be
found in the extract enclosed.

[The Government of
China has, at length, been
led to take action in this
business more, probably, as
the result of the influence
of Chinese steamship &
owners, than from any &
desire to conserve the interests
of foreigners.

I have the honor to be
Sir,

Your

Your obedient servant.
Chester Holcombe

Enclosure.

1 Editorial taken from the Shanghai Courier of January 6th, 1882.

Despatch No. 54.
Enclosure.

The Shanghai Courier.

FRIDAY, 6TH JANUARY, 1882.

AWAY WITH IT!

AT the end of last month we were able to give our readers the intelligence that at length the Woosung Bar is to be eradicated. A contract was signed on 27th December by the Taotai LIU on behalf of the Chinese Government on the one side, and Mr. W. WATSON of Messrs. MACLEAN and Co. on the other, for the importation of a dredging machine to be used specially for the removal of the "heaven sent barrier." Thus, after ten year's continuous exertion on the part of the weightiest and wealthiest circle of the community, backed by the Chamber of Commerce, and aided by the influence of China merchants in England, that which these combined agencies have failed to achieve, has been accomplished by an individual firm. It is a significant fact that the China of to-day is a country which at last has awakened from its long repose in Sleepy Hollow, and is fully aroused to the necessity of keeping pace with the giant strides of the West. In olden days, the Woosung Bar was regarded by Prince KUNG and the official celestials generally as an omnipotent barrier to the Western barbarian. By them it was looked upon as a fragment of the great wall of China sunk in the mouth of the Whangpo. As the great wall was thought to be a most perfect means of excluding the outer barbarians from entering on the domains of the Son of Heaven so this bar was looked upon as a most effective protection against foreign war ships attempting to come up to Shanghai. It was this feeling that caused the Chinese officials to offer that impalpable but persistent opposition to any preliminary measures proposed to abolish this obstacle, that has, until lately, characterised the Celestial nation in dealing with the foreigner.

As we have stated, the determined outcry of the foreigners and their customary energy in endeavouring to remove this bar, dates from some ten years back. In olden days when the vessels visiting this port were nearly all sailing ships, those of deep draught were content to wait for days at the bar for water. Those were the "good old times" when there was only a monthly mail delivered by the P. and O. in steamers no bigger than the present Tientsin packets, when Shanghai made pleasure a business and business a pleasure, when there was none of the hurry-scurry worry, and fight for existence which characterises the Settlement of to-day. But now, immediately ships arrive at Woosung, it is imperative that they should force a way over the bar, and come into port with all possible speed. To assist them in doing this a swarm of cargo boats have cropped up on the river, and they are always in readiness to hurry to the [illegible] bar and lighter ships of deep draught sufficiently to enable them more easily to force their keels through the mud of the bar. In consequence of this, the leading merchants, and notably the Chamber of Commerce, brought their weight and energy to bear on the Chinese with a view to the removal of the obstruction Thus at great expense, and with considerable perseverance in this direction, Messrs. ESCHER and DE RYKE were instructed to survey the river and report upon the cheapest and most efficient method by which a clear channel could be maintained. The exhaustive and elaborate reports of these gentlemen will be sufficiently fresh in the recollection of our readers to dispense with recapitulation. But able and practical as were the suggestions of these experts, and backed as they were by the influence of the Chamber of Commerce, they were never practically recognised by the Chinese authorities. Nor did MAJOR BRIDGFORD'S report achieve any greater success, although the method which he advocated for clearing the river was estimated to cost no more than Tls. 150,000. We may here remark that, at the period when the name of the Heaven sent barrier was given to this bar, if the foreign merchants had agreed to remove the obstruction at their own expense, it is more than questionable if the Chinese authorities would have permitted such an action, judging from the spirit in which they regarded this impediment to the navigation of the Whangpoo. Comparing the opinions held by the Chinese on this matter some ten years since with those which have been just recently expressed by them in their latest action, we are struck with the advance the "black-headed people" have made in regard to emerging from a strict and bigotted conservatism into a liberal and progressive mode of thinking and acting. The contract just signed is a significant fact of China's progressiveness, and forms a conclusive answer to those who are ringing eternal changes on the antiquated opinions formed of the conservatism of the nation. In respect to the method to be employed in removing the bar under the contract recently signed, we know but little, except that a dredger vessel is being built by Messrs. WILLIAM SIMON'S & Co. of London Works, Renfrew, Scotland. It will be schooner rigged with twin screws, and of 80-horse power, nominal. It will be what is designated the "patent hopper dredger," and will carry 600 tons of mud at an average speed of seven miles per hour, lifted from the bottom to a maximum of 80 feet, at the rate of 300 tons per hour. As to whether this dredger is to be employed directly upon the bar, or what is known as the false channel of the Whangpoo, we are not in a position to say. But from the several reports upon the best methods of clearing the river which we have seen, most of the experts concur, in advocating the "development" of the North or Junk Channel. The advantage of this method of procedure

has been ably explained and advocated in Major Baldwood's report. In this he states: "When man attempts to meddle with nature, he can only succeed in permamently modifying its aspect, by studying the constant laws of its phenomena, and by making his works conformable to these." And in following out this axiom Major Baldwood points out that if by any reasonable means the whole volume of the river could be diverted into one channel instead of as at present being divided by Gough's island into two, the false bars would cease to exist. Thus the Junk Channel would be made the true and deep course of the river and the Ship Channel would silt up entirely. To accomplish this the Major points out that the first object to be attained is the enlargement of the sectional area of the most shoal portion of the Junk Channel, as by having an enlarged area a much greater volume of flood tide water will be projected past Gough's island and so stored for supplying the ebb with increased volume. As this enlargement progresses the strength of the ebb will at first increase in the Ship's Channel owing to the increased volume of water received through the Junk Channel; and will also from the same cause (plus the enlargement of the channel) increase the ebb in the Junk Channel." By this method it is shown that gradually the volume discharged by the Junk Channel, would exceed that discharged by the Ship Channel to such an extent that the false bar or lip at its lower end, would commence to silt up, thus increasing the choke to the ebb in that channel. The principal advantages claimed by Major Baldwood for this method of attack are summarised as follows:—First, that the navigation will not be impeded during the progress of the works; second, it will give more rise of tide up the river; third, the restoring of that section of the river to one channel, navigable at all times of tide, instead of at present having two channels that are only navigable at certain times of tide." As we have already stated, we are in ignorance as to whether the dredger which is to arrive in Shanghai within nine months from the present time, will work upon the system advocated by the above report. But experts in this matter are of opinion that instead of using steam hoppers and carrying mud out to sea, it might be cheaper to discharge it on the banks where it could be utilised. This could easily be accomplished by what is known as an "overhead traveller" or, if it were discovered that sand had accumulated in the bed of the channel, it could be speedily conveyed ashore by a "flume" similar to those used with such signal success in the Suez Canal. But by whatever means the new dredger is to work, we have all to be thankful that at length the barrier is to be abolished, and that at the end of the present year we can exclaim—"Away with it!"

No. 55. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, January 23rd, 1882.

Chester Holcombe to

the Secretary of State,

Subject.

Account for cost of telegram.

Synopsis.

Refers to despatch number 45.

and forwards a duplicate of

statement. Filed

No. 55. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, January 23rd, 1882.

Honorable F. T. Frelinghuysen.

Secretary of State.

Sir:—

Referring to my despatch, number 45. I have the honor to enclose a duplicate of the statement of the cost of my telegram of December 19th 1881.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

Chester Holcombe

Enclosure.

1. Duplicate statement cost of telegram.

No. 1. Wade

Tientsin, China.

January 23rd 1882.

RECEIVED FEB 7 1882 DEPT. OF STATE

Honorable
F. T. Frelinghuysen,
Secretary of State.
Washington. D.C.

Sir:

I desire to express my sincere recognition of the great confidence placed in me by the President and the Secretary of State in the appointment forwarded to me by the last American mail as Special Envoy to Corea, with power to make a treaty with that country, and I also wish to thank the Hon. Secretary himself for the encouraging telegram forwarded to me by the U. S. Chargé at Peking and received on the 19th inst.-

The instructions accompanying the commission contain, very properly, a warning against the danger of permitting my zeal to outrun my discretion in the effort to be the first to enter this "forbidden land"- I hope the Hon Secretary of State will believe me when I say that I

consider the dignity of the Government paramount always to my own advantage -

A long experience in the East has taught me that nothing gives a Western Nation greater ascendency than a successful manifestation of its power - while a failure is never forgotten, and one great obstacle just now in the Corea is the memory of the unfortunate issue of our efforts there in 1871 -

But the Department will understand that success depends now not so much upon ourselves as upon the critical condition of the relations existing between China and Japan - between which countries the Corea is a strategical point - A treaty made by the United States through the influence of China would tend to check the encroachments of Japan, against which China, while possessing the will, lacks the nerve to protest -

His Excellency Li Hung-Chang lends his assistance (without which I doubt if a treaty can be made) for this purpose and not from any desire to advance the interests of the United States in the East - Besides he fears that some other Nation less scrupulous

might force these "barred gates" -

Indeed it was his dread of Russia when I visited him in August 1880, which urged him to offer his co-operation in making a treaty with Corea - Following this period came the peace with Russia and when I saw him again (June '81), he told me that a treaty was no longer advisable - that the crisis had passed! - But very soon afterwards complaints reached the Viceroy of Japanese aggression in Corea and of the ill-treatment of its people, and then His Excellency again sent for me and said that he had dispatched a messenger to Corea advising a treaty with the United States -

The time he had specified for an answer elapsed while rumors of grievances multiplied -

During this interval I was consulted about the "Chinese Navy" and my suggestions were adopted to such an extent that it was generally believed the Viceroy intended to place the Squadron belonging to his Province under my charge, and he quite understood from our Minister at Peking that our Government would not be unwilling to have

one of its Naval Officers, accept such position — However serious the Viceroy may have been in this intention, it became evident in a few months that it would end in frustration - either by the intrigues of foreigners already in and about the Naval service, or by the pressure of foreign Representatives in favor of their own countrymen — Under these influences His Excellency the Viceroy began to grow less communicative on Naval Matters and finally placed me in such a position that I was obliged to decline any further connection with the Navy, or sacrifice the dignity due to my country and myself —

When I chose this alternative I heard no more from His Excellency until just before his departure for Paoting Fu (the Winter Capital), in December, when he sent me the message by his Naval Secretary which Mr. Holcombe transmitted to you. Viz:- "that the Corean Government was now willing to make a treaty with the United States and that the Viceroy would send an official with the American Envoy to that country" — This message is the

the result I have no doubt of a visit from a Corean Envoy who came here and went to Peking some time in the month of October last, and I think that in sending it to me the Viceroy had the Sanction of the Yamun at Peking.

If the condition of things as I have stated them should remain unchanged in Corea until Spring - about May 1st prox. - I think the prospects of a treaty quite favorable - But as the Department will by that time be in possession of this communication I can readily be advised as to the propriety of prosecuting the mission.

I do not take into account any wish of the Corean Government itself on this question because I believe it will be governed by the advice of Li Hung-Chang. I have every reason to believe that the Japanese treaty was made under his Sanction.

I speak of the Viceroy in these matters because he is virtually in all foreign affairs the ruler of China -

I

I quite recognize the fact that there is no "Urgency" in a treaty with Corea - It is a poor country and its commerce is of small promise both at present and in the future, but it lies in the Ocean highway of Nations and must be opened sooner or later; it is only a question whether our Government will take the initiative as it did in Japan, or leave to European Powers the prestige which such action will confer upon them - Our ships have almost disappeared from the surface of the sea - Our Navy is fast becoming a tradition, but if our diplomacy can by its moral force gain a point here upon the Pacific I shall take great satisfaction in my share of the work.

Although the propositions for a Corean treaty were made to me confidentially - yet I have reason to believe that the same project was submitted to H. B. M's Minister by H. E. Li Hung-chang -

The Viceroy however prefers the United States because he hopes to see the "Opium Clause" inserted which England would not agree to, and the "religious toleration"

question left out which either France or Italy would probably insist upon.

I am inclined to think that an "Opium clause" would be very satisfactory to China - His Excellency Li Hung-Chang has been informed of my appointment through the Chinese Official in charge of foreign affairs at Tientsin.

Rear Admiral Clity has placed the U.S.S. "Swatara" at my disposal and I have written asking for a meeting to discuss the question of Co-operation which I have no doubt will be cordial and effective. I have proposed Chefoo about May 1st prox. or any other point in China during the month of April.

In a letter to the Assistant Secretary of State by the earliest mail acknowledging receipt of the despatches of the Department I mentioned two or three minor points in the instructions which I respectfully request may meet with your favorable consideration -

I

I have the honor to be,
With great respect.
Your Obedient Servant.
R. W. Shufeldt
Commodore U. S. Navy

acknowledge please by cable the telegram
whereby the correspondence ends as to Prince Kung

made

No. 56. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, January 24th, 1882.

Chester Holcombe to
the Secretary of State.

Subject.

Assault upon Rev. Sites at Yenping.

Synopsis.

Refers to enclosure 2. despatch number 44., and encloses a translation of Prince Kung's response. Rigid orders to effect an immediate settlement of the case have been issued.

No. 56. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, January 24th, 1882.

Honorable F. T. Frelinghuysen.
Secretary of State!

Sir:—

In my despatch number 44. I furnished the Department with certain correspondence in the case of assault upon Rev. Mr. Sites at Yenping in the province of Fukien.

Referring now more particularly to enclosure 2. in that despatch, that enclosure being a copy of a letter which had been addressed to Prince Kung, I have the honor to forward a translation of the 1/56 response

response which has been received from His Imperial Highness.

You will notice that he declares that he has most positively instructed the Provincial Authorities to settle this case in a satisfactory manner at an early moment.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant.
Chester Holcombe

Enclosure.

1. Prince Kung to Hon. Holcombe 3/1882. January 14th 1882.

Despatch No. 56.
Enclosure.

3/1882

Prince Kung, Chief Secretary of State for foreign affairs, herewith makes a communication in reply.

Upon the 5th instant I had the honor to receive your despatch in the matter of the assault upon the Rev. Mr. Sites at Yen Ping fu, in which you remarked that although two years have elapsed this case is still unsettled; that Mr. Consul Wingate has insisted only that the false charges made against Mr. Sites be publicly withdrawn by the local authorities; that the chapel at Yen Ping should be restored to those who have occupied it for many years; and that such orders and proclamations be issued to the officials, literati, and people as will serve to prevent effectually a recurrence of such outrages. And you request me to issue such instructions to the local authorities as will cause them to close this case in a just manner and at once.

In reply I have the honor to

inform

inform you that I have most positively instructed the authorities of the province concerned to settle this business in a satisfactory manner at an early moment. When I shall have heard from them in reply I will address you further

Hon. Chester Wolcombe
etc. etc. etc. etc.

Peking, January 16th, 1882.

Rec'd at Washington April 21. 82

made

Confidential

No. 57. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, January 26th, 1882.

Chester Holcombe to the Secretary of State.

Subject.

The opium traffic in China.

Synopsis.

Transmits translations of four papers which discuss certain measures for suppressing the traffic; narrates certain conversations had with the Foreign Office upon the subject. Sir Thomas Wade is conducting negotiations which are not likely to prove successful.

Confidential.

No. 57. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, January 26th, 1882.

Honorable F. T. Frelinghuysen.

Secretary of State.

Sir:-

The insertion of an article in each of the treaties recently concluded between China and the United States, Russia, and Brazil, by which trade in opium is prohibited, appears to have revived the courage of the Chinese Government and given new energy and determination to its efforts to suppress all traffic in the drug

drug.

As indicating this result, I have the honor to forward, herewith, translations
1/57. of four papers which have come into my possession. They are all from Chinese sources and, though lengthy, will be found full of interest and worthy of careful perusal.

They deal with two propositions for suppressing the opium trade:—

1st/4 a proposition, submitted to the Throne by the celebrated Lao Chung-tang, to impose a practically prohibitive duty upon both foreign and native opium.

2nd/4

2nd, A scheme devised by certain Chinese merchants of Hongkong and Canton, and approved by H. E. Li Hung Chang, under which, and by virtue of an agreement to be reached with the Indian & Government, the trade shall become a monopoly in the hands of the Government of China. Attached to this scheme are two conditions:- (a.) That Great Britain shall consent to a diminution of the amount of opium sent to China to the extent of 5,000 chests per annum, & which would put an end to the trade in about 16 years; and (b.) that, in return for this

this concession, China shall pay over to India, each year, one half of the total profits derived from the monopoly of the traffic.

The Ministers of the Foreign Office asked, in confidential conversation, some weeks since, my opinion upon these two schemes.

They were told, in response, that, as to the first proposition, China had the right to tax opium to any extent the moment it had passed the Customs and reached the hands of the native dealer. There could, therefore be no objection to this procedure, provided

effective

effective measures could be devised to suppress the smuggling of opium, which, already great in amount, would be largely increased under a prohibitive tariff.

As to the second scheme I told them frankly that, in my opinion, it ought not, for very strong reasons, to receive the sanction of the Imperial Government. In explanation I stated that there is a division of opinion among those who had studied the opium traffic in China, as to the actual desire of the Government regarding it. Some held, among whom were the Government and people of

of the United States, that China is sincere and conscientious in its belief that the traffic is a grievous burden, and a curse to its subjects, which it is bent on removing. Others hold, and point to the increasing growth of the poppy in Mehina as evidence to their correctness, that Mehina does not care to suppress the traffic, but rather seeks to secure a larger share of the enormous profits derived from it. Any procedure, therefore, which made the Mehinese Government practically an opium trader, however specious and plausible the scheme might be, would alienate

alienate the sympathy and destroy the confidence of those who had held faith in the sincerity of China, would confirm the opinions of those who had distrusted her motives, and lessen greatly the possibilities of removing this curse from her people. For the suppression of the opium traffic can only be accomplished with the consent and cooperation of all the Powers which now have the drug on the tariff lists of their treaties with this Empire, and those Powers will be little likely to listen to any proposition which fails to indicate the sincere desire of China to put an end to the trade

trade.

The Ministers listened closely to what I had to say, and at the close of my remarks, gave their approval with great earnestness.

Some two weeks ago Sir Thomas Wade, the British Minister, informed me that he had received special authority from his Government to treat with that of China upon the opium question, and that he had submitted no less than twelve propositions for dealing with the traffic to the Chinese Foreign Office. He stated that, in his opinion, China was not in the least sincere in her professed desire

to

to suppress the trade, but was only anxious to secure the largest possible revenue from it.

It may be proper to say just here that, notwithstanding Sir Thomas Wade's opinion to the contrary, as the result of much intimate and confidential conversation with many high Chinese officials upon this subject during the last ten years, I am entirely convinced that the Chinese Government is sincere and positive in the determination to rid the Empire of this pernicious use of opium. And there is consequently little prospect that the negotiations conducted by

by Sir Thomas Wade, and which offer really nothing but an increased revenue to China from opium, will be successful.

Yesterday the Ministers of the Foreign Office told me that they had received the 12 propositions from the British Minister, and that there were in substance but three. The first is the plan laid down in the Chefoo Convention. The second is that, already noticed in this despatch, of forming an "Opium Monopoly" at Hongkong. The third was not mentioned. The Ministers stated that they had responded to Sir Thomas Wade positively declining

declining the second proposition, and saying that the Government of China could, under no circumstances, consent to a project which would make it practically an opium trader.

There is good ground for hope that, as a result of the present agitation of this question, some measures may be taken by China to lessen this evil if not to remove it entirely from her people.

I need hardly assure the Department that great care has been taken in my conversations with the Foreign Office upon this subject, to avoid

avoid all criticism upon the policy and action of the Government of Great Britain in the premises.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

Chester Holcombe

Enclosure.

1. Four papers discussing the opium trade in China.

Despatch No. 57.
Enclosure.

Draft of Rules proposing an increase of the taxation of opium, to be introduced as an experiment. Respectfully submitted to H. E. Tso Tsung Tang.

The writer begs leave to preface his subject with the following remarks.

Of all vices which enslave the human race the opium habit may be said to be the most injurious, and its abolition therefore is the greatest benefit that can be conferred on a nation addicted to it. Some time since an Imperial Decree was issued ordering the high officers of the various provinces to investigate the opium question with a view to its prohibition. It was then argued by some that the vice would gradually die out if the taxes on the drug were increased so as to make the price prohibitory without actually prohibiting its sale; and recently Your Excellency in a memorial to the Throne, prayed that an increase of taxation both of foreign and native opium be first sanctioned as an experiment for gaining some substantial benefit. On June 5th another

another Imperial Decree was issued ordering the Superintendents of Trade, the General in command at Foochow, the Governors General, and Superintendents of Customs of the various provinces to make a careful investigation of the conditions at all the Customs stations, to draw up a satisfactory system of rules for the examination and taxation of opium, and to submit their reports to the Throne for the Imperial decision. Looking upward the writer beholds with admiration the laudable purpose which the Court has manifested of putting forth its energy to reform the degenerate tastes of the people; he believes it a great opportunity for restoring the country to its primitive condition of prosperity.

India is the country where opium is produced, and the revenue derived from it is the largest item in the Indian Revenue. England regards India as a sort of "foreign treasury"; while the power of dealing with the importation of opium into China is in the hands

of

of the British Government. The revenue which China derives from opium at the present day is also the largest item in her Income. The proposition set forth in Y. E.'s memorial is a truly admirable plan for saving the country from the present scourge, for while it aims at rooting out the evil, it also proposes a large increase of revenue. In the memorial are these words "whether the suggestions be carried out simultaneously or singly the essential is to do what is judicious and expedient, and when the right course is once taken in hand the measure can be pushed forward with every chance of success — without in the least affecting foreigners". Thus it would appear that we are to be the masters in dealing with this question; and the proposition is all the more worthy of adoption as coming from an old and experienced officer of the country.

One of the chief essentials in establishing Customs collectorates is to guard against smuggling. Now there are unscrupulous traders who will contrive

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a hundred ways to escape taxes and the many ports present numerous outlets. There was no small amount of smuggling before, when the amount of revenue collected was not very great, but now if the taxation be augmented and the collection increase many fold, it follows of course that ~~in~~ supervision will become exceedingly difficult; and there is reason to fear that not only will the idea of increasing the revenue prove unsuccessful, but that the real aim of prohibiting the use of opium might also prove abortive.

The proposal to oust opium from the Empire was first rigorously taken in hand by Lin wen chung; but his meritorious efforts were defeated at the last moment, and the scourge has continued in the country till this day. The importation of opium during the reigns of Chia ching and Tao Kwang was about 10.000 to 20.000 chests annually, at the present day it has increased to about 70.000 to 80.000 chests. All this while the English have reaped profits from the traffic and China has

has suffered injury. Both natives and foreigners are now regarded with equal favor in the matter of commercial relations, and the benefits resulting therefrom accrue to all alike; it is but right therefore that all should unite in putting away anything which produces injury to anyone. Certain philanthropists of England have established in London a "British and Oriental Association for the suppression of the Opium trade" which is engaged in discussing the question with the Upper and Lower Houses of parliament. England is the first country in Europe for wealth and power; nobody can suppose that she reckons the revenue derived from Indian opium as a source of wealth to her. If China in her earnest desire to benefit the country seek to negotiate some arrangement with her as to opium she will assuredly not deem it impossible. A review of the books of International Law has taught the writer that European nations in most matters are influenced by considerations of power and strength;

but

but when a given question is contrary to the wishes of many nations, the country proposing it finds it necessary to yield, even to its own prejudice. Take for instance the abolition of slavery to accomplish which England expended millions of money; although the measure was contrary to a great number of her influential and wealthy subjects, she was magnanimous enough to suppress the trade. The opium traffic is one which other nations regard with dislike; and the fact must be patent to everybody that the profit which it brings cannot much longer be enjoyed by England. From the time when opium was recognized as a legitimate article of commerce, the cultivation of the poppy in China rapidly increased; and the high provincial officers seeing that opium and the poppy were injurious articles liable to the lives of the people and the interests of the country endeavored strenuously to suppress its cultivation in Shan hsi and other provinces. If the prohibition be

be removed and opium cultivation permitted, the profit which England derives from bringing it to China will certainly be diminished. Recently the nations of the West have been considering the advisability of introducing from other countries such grains and plants as are unknown in their own; China herself has supplied cuttings of the mulberry and hemp for acclimation in other parts. Suppose other countries take to producing opium so as to get a share of England's profits, will the latter be able to prevent them from doing so? Certainly not.

The writer submits as his humble opinion that the plan of increasing the taxation on opium in the hope that its high price may gradually diminish the appetite for it, while it shows an anxious and earnest desire to rid the country of a deep-rooted evil, is also a means of adding materially to the finances of the country, and is a plan against which the wisdom of the great political economist Lin yen

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is not worthy of mention. There is this question, however, which it is feared will interfere with the true success of the scheme - viz:- the difficulty of inaugurating such a system of supervision as will preclude any possibility of smuggling, and the danger of corruption and bribery of officers. To meet this difficulty the writer has prepared a set of rules which he believes will fulfill all the requirements for removing the opium-trail by its very roots. They are as follows: -

1. - All opium intended for importation to China shall be stored at Hongkong whence supplies shall in future be drawn for sale at the ports. For this purpose a "Depot" shall be established at Hongkong and all the opium intended for China shall be taken over by the farmer who will pay for it. The farmer must be familiar with the relations between China and foreign countries; and the monopoly will be granted to him only on the condition of his capital being sufficient to meet

Reynolds

payments for the opium. China shall depute an officer of high rank to superintend the proceedings of the former, and England shall also appoint an officer to act in concert with him so as to manifest harmony of action and a due regard for the importance of the business.

2.— The managers of the "Depot", shall prepare certificates in triplicate, and purchasers of opium at Hongkong will be provided with a certificate for delivery at the port of destination. The duty-office at the port of destination will levy duty on the opium as declared in the certificate at the rate of Tls. 150. per 100 catties. The merchant on applying to purchase opium must produce security from some substantial firm in Hongkong who are willing to stand his guarantors for the amount purchased and the port for which it is destined, which points must be clearly stated; one certificate will then be delivered to the purchaser, a duplicate will be forwarded to the duty-office at the port

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of destination, and a triplicate retained at the Depot. In the event of some unforseen accident to the opium the purchaser will be permitted to report the fact for verification; but if the opium does not reach the port of destination, and no evidence of any accident is proven, the guarantor will be prosecuted for the duty due on the opium. The certificates collected by the duty-offices at the ports will, at the expiry of every month, be returned to the Depot for the purpose of verification.

3— In view of the fact that the importation of opium into China amounts to about 70,000 to 80,000 chests annually, there is reason to apprehend that the present scheme for interdicting its use might prove fruitless, and that no real benefit will result by increasing the taxation, nor will the real object of interdicting its use be gained. An agreement should therefore be made with the British Government which

shall

shall provide that within a certain number of years the importation of opium shall be limited to 80000 chests the first year, and a reduction of 5000 chests each consecutive year until the importation shall ~~.....~~ lapse at the expiry of 18 years. All the opium imported during this period to be disposed of by monopoly. Provision being then made for a yearly decrease of the quantity imported, a proportionate increase should be made in the price of the drug; by this means it is hoped that heavy smokers may be brought to check their indulgence while light smokers may give up the habit altogether. The benefit that will thus result is as plain as can be.

4. — During the years in which the opium is to be farmed from the English the price of the drug shall be fixed at the average rate of the prices prevailing during the three years previous to the agreement. For instance if the highest price of the drug during the three years is $750.

and

and the lowest price $ 650, the average rate of $ 650. shall be the price fixed upon. No augmentation nor reduction of the price of the drug delivered at Hongkong shall be made in view of the yearly decrease of 5000 chests in the quantity imported. The proposition to prohibit the use of opium being one in which England & China concur, it is advisable to adopt a slow process for bringing about this result.

5— Provision being made for no augmentation nor reduction of the price during the years in which the opium shall be farmed, it must also be stipulated that no opium shall be transported to other ports whence it may find its way into China. One year after the agreement is put in operation, China shall send an officer to India to ascertain whether the opium production is diminished in proportion to the yearly decrease of the quantity imported. The millions of income which it is expected will accrue through the yearly

(increase)

increase in the price of the drug shall be disposed of in the following manner:— Deduction being made of all expenses one half of the net Income shall be distributed among the Superintendents of Trade, and the Governors General, and Governors of the various provinces to be used in the public expenditure of the country, the remaining half shall go to the British Government as compensation for the loss of revenue sustained both by the Government and people in consequence of the yearly decrease in the opium production. Although this Income will be derived solely from the people of China, it should be shared with England without regard to the source of its production. It is like praying to rid the country of an immeasurable evil. India, it is presumed, need suffer no loss of her agricultural resources, for in the place of opium she might cultivate the mulberry, hemp, tea, and such like products. That the famine which lately visited India and the drought which prevailed in Shansi and other provinces of China are but a retribution

retributions inflicted by a clear seeing Providence on the two countries for cultivating Opium is no unreasonable presumption.

6. — After the agreement with England is made a stringent prohibition should be issued forbidding the cultivation of the poppy in all the provinces. The cultivation of opium in India must of necessity be gradually discontinued, but in China it must be suppressed without delay. England is the recipient of the benefit while China suffers the injury which Opium begets; therefore if its cultivation is not first stopped in China, it will not be manifesting a disposition to act fairly.

7. — China has been heretofore the only market for Indian opium; recently however quantities of it have been transported to the islands of the Indian Archipelago where only the Chinese consume it, should England not deem it impossible to treat with China for its prohibition by enhancing

the price, it may be hoped that the British Government will also be able to prohibit its use among the Chinese in those islands by a similar process.

8.– All expences connected with the Depot at Hongkong shall be defrayed by the farmer to whom it is proposed to allow a profit of 5 % on the price of sale of the opium. Losses by fire, water, or other unforseen causes, as also arrears of payment of debts, are to be borne by the farmer, who shall make full compensation for the same; he shall not be allowed to charge these losses to the public account.

The foregoing regulations are submitted only as the humble views of the writer. If sanction be given to carry out the scheme, the result will be a new growth of profit with a complete cessation of the opium scourge.

At the present day the country is the scene of numerous disturbances both

both by land and sea, to quell which enormous outlays are needed, Peking which is the root and stem of the country should never be left without a surplus fund, neither should the South-Eastern provinces which are rich in resources be drained of their stores of wealth. Opium is a mere luxury to those who indulge in it and no injury is likely to result by enhancing its price; it is not in the same category as cloth, silk, or grain, which if the prices be increased but a little cause serious inconvenience to the people. In ancient times it was the rule with the Government to seek to enrich the people; any increase of taxation was regarded as a thing to be avoided. If it is proposed now to act in opposition to that rule it should be remembered that in this case the question is the removal of a great plague which was unknown in the olden time, while a source of great profit will be brought into temporary existence. The Income which this enhancement of opium will bring

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at present
is far greater than that derived from any other commodity whether native or foreign; it is moreover an income that can be relied upon as a certainty, and no injury is likely to result by putting it in operation.

When the time comes that the country shall be wholly cleared of this long-standing plague, and the people shall be raised to a better standard of moral and physical excellence, and Heaven and Earth shall combine to bring forth all that is beautiful and good, then shall no misunderstandings disturb the peaceful relations of China and foreign countries, and there shall be no necessity to cast about for plans to increase the strength and the wealth of the country.

The writer submits his insignificant views as above and humbly begs to be favored with instructions in reply.

Submitted to H. E. Tso-Tsung-Tang.

Your Excellency's servant begs leave to make the following observations.

There are periods in the history of every country when troubles arise at home and dangers threaten it from abroad, and when reliance must be placed on those officers whose ability to cope with trouble will restore the country to a state of tranquility as secure as the rest of the Tai Shan mountains. And when the dangers that threatened a country have been dispelled, a necessary step is to take such measures as will restore the country to its primary condition of prosperity. An able minister may succeed in securing for his country a season of peace; such talents as those of the Prime Ministers of King Wang kept the country at peace during three Dynasties.

Our present Dynasty has been blessed with a succession of saintly monarchs whose literary attainments and military prowess have excelled those of their

Ancestors

ancestors; while the increased homage of tributary princes was never so great in the olden time. During the reigns of Kien-Lung and Chia-Ching the country was in its glory and its children rejoiced in many blessings. It was from the time of Tao-Kwang's reign that troubles at home and dangers from abroad came one after another, and within these few score years the stores of wealth accumulated at Peking and in the South-Eastern provinces have been completely drained, so that both the Government and the people are impoverished. The time seems to have come for reviving the prosperity of the country, and this can be done by a judicious employment of the able ministers of the Empire. Yoh will not be ungrateful to the Court for the trust reposed in them. Y. E's sense of gratitude to the Court makes you feel unsatisfied with your past labors. Now, the designs of Russia on our new boundary may justly be termed a danger of the first magnitude; not

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a foot of the territory bequeathed by our ancestors can we afford to lose. The baleful relinquishment of territory by the Sung and Ming Dynasties is a dangerous precedent to be avoided. Y. E. vies with the great General Chu-Kuo-liang in routing the enemy, and your strategical movements may be compared to those of Duke Chou of old. You have dispelled the insidious designs of Russia which may be likened to the unceremoniousness of a stranger moving by the side of one's very couch; wherefore the Court cannot be satisfied to have done with your services. You have added to the dignity of the country by your decided conquests in Ili, you have helped to nurture the constitution and consolidate the Government for a hundred years; your services as a member of the Privy Council and your knowledge of foreign relations are unrivalled. Yao, Sung, Han, and Tan, were men of no extraordinary talents, their only ability consisted in preserving a correct medium in all things, yet they

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were able to place the Government on
a solid foundation, and secure for the
people the pleasures and contentment of
peace.

Your servant is a lowly citizen of
Canton, howbeit he has been to the Capital
and has given some attention to the
questions of the day. He has read Y. E.'s
memorial praying that an increase of
taxation both of native and foreign opium
be first sanctioned with a view to trying
if some palpable benefit may be gained.
His first feeling on perusing it was one of joy
followed however by some misgivings;
joy, because the plan proposed to rid
the country of the opium evil - while it
created a source of income; his misgivings
were inspired by the thought that the income
might not prove an evident success, while
the opium-evil might after all not be
completely eradicated. The ancient classics
have taught us how a certain minister
was a perfect model of forbearance; -
presuming on this your servant has
ventured to present to Y. E. his

humble

~~humble wisdom~~.

Opium is a product of India; the English sell it to us Chinese who consume it; they reap the profits of the traffic, while we suffer the evils of its consumption. Years ago, the Emperor Taoukwang decided of his own motion and ordered Lin-tsen-chung, as special Commissioner, to proceed with all despatch to Canton to deal with the opium question. The majestic reverb of the Emperor's mandate reached far and wide, and natives and barbarians alike were filled with awe; the result was that 8 tests out of 10 of the opium were given up to the Commissioner who destroyed every bit of it. The meritorious object of the Commissioner was defeated, however, at the last moment; and the opium-evil has continued in the Empire ever since. At the present day the importation of opium has increased many fold, and its baleful influence has spread in proportion. The time has come when it must be stopped and the present time seems opportune. So earnest

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was Commissioner Lin in condemning the opium traffic, that he is reported to have said — "Would that Yao & Shun were alive that they might also quell this plague which is worse than the Deluge and the plague of wild beasts." To stop the flowing of the evil, it must be tapped at its source. Some have advocated the plan of promoting the cultivation of the poppy in China, till its cheapness shall shut the Indian drug out of the market. Now, the reason why Shanhai and Hunan have of late been visited by dearth is because the people took to cultivating the poppy so largely that they neglected the other necessaries of life. But it is a fact that the number of those who died of starvation was small in comparison with those who died of the effects of opium smoking. A man afflicted with hunger can fast for some days while he goes in quest of food, whereas a victim of opium cannot stir many steps when the craving is upon him. Moreover if opium cultivation be

permitted

permitted in China the people would have it as conveniently on hand for consumption that their physical strength would be wasted and their energies impaired. Without the grain crops have been the only source about the failure of which any anxiety need be felt, but if opium be cultivated so as to become an important item in the production of the country, any failure in its yield might entail far greater consequences than in the case of the cereals. A comparison of opium versus grain shows as clearly as daylight that to keep a man on opium costs more than to keep ten men on rice.

The Imperial decree of the 9th day, 5th moon, 7th year of Tao Kwang has led some who look at the question from a standpoint of gain to regard opium as a rare chance for a monopoly; they have proposed to establish a company with a big capital to farm all the opium from the English, while they would undertake to pay over the duty 150 Taels per chest to the Government. Their

plan

plan would no doubt put a stop to the practice of smuggling; but it would not comprehend the aim of the prohibition to traffic in the drug issued by the Emperor Tao Kwang, nor yet the purpose of Y. E's plan for intercepting its use by increasing the taxes. Your servant ——— in spite of his ignorance, presumed to submit to the Viceroy of the Two Kwang and the Governor of Canton, a draft of Regulations proposing a procedure calculated to completely rid the country of the opium-evil, and was ... favored by the Viceroy with instructions to proceed in company with the Ex-Superintendent of Customs Chün to Hongkong in order to discuss the whole subject with Governor Kennessey. The Governor was delighted to meet us on the question; he said the relations between England and China were those of friendship, and that benefit or injury were questions which affected both alike; that it was a duty to spread happiness everywhere. It may be said that there are points in the Regulations

Enclosed

proposed which are impracticable, and others which are superfluous. But it matters little just what method is adopted in dealing with this question; the object to be gained is to stop the importation of the drug into China.

It is now more than a hundred years that the English have reaped profit from the opium-traffic while China has suffered injury by its consumption. The reason why we have thus long suffered is simply because we have consented to collect revenue on the drug, thereby allowing the evil to grow and spread. Perusing with reverence the Decree of the Emperor Taokwang Your servant finds that the Emperor regarded the question of revenue as unworthy of consideration in view of the gravity of the evil; he bethinks himself with reverent admiration on the saintly rule of that Monarch who regarded the welfare of his country as fundamental, without a thought for secondary gain; and believes it a principle that should be followed in all ages. Your Excellency's request

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for sanction to increase the taxation of opium with a view to gradually prohibiting its use in China, is a proposition in accordance with the exigencies of the times; it is a temporary expedient, and cannot be considered a departure from the standard principle. The saintly Lord (Tartsung) and the virtuous minister (Tso Tsung Tang) are alike in their purpose for upholding the welfare of the country. In the humble opinion of your servant the importation of the drug can be stopped by diminishing its cultivation in India; while its consumption by the Chinese could cease by gradually enhancing its price.

The proposal to pay over to the English one half of the Income as proposed in Regulation 4, would meet any apprehension as to their unwillingness to give up a profitable trade in order to accomodate China. The success of the whole scheme as proposed, however, will depend greatly on those entrusted with its execution.

Foreigners who come to sell opium in

China

China are for the most part actuated by considerations of gain rather than love of justice; the proposal to pay over to them this Income to compensate for the profit which they are to be asked to relinquish is one which they will gladly accept as a way of preserving their good name by ceasing to engage in the traffic.

It will be essential however for us to be sure of our method of procedure in order to bring England to acquiesce in our proposals, and still more essential to act at the right moment; but whether England will meet us on a common ground is a question that cannot be determined beforehand.

At the present day peace reigns throughout the land and the country is gradually recovering its strength. Since Y. E. was known to be an adviser in the Councils of the State, China and other nations have learnt to be on terms of amity. When the great Minister Sz-ma-wen-kung of the Sung Dynasty was made a Counsellor his enemies of the Kingdom of Liao were weary of provoking quarrels with him;

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the respect inspired by Y. E's abilities surpasses that of ancient days.

Your servant might well compare his inexperience to that of "the frog in the well" which knows nothing of the vastness of the sea: but he has learned that the mountain will not disdain to have a shovel of earth added on to it, nor the great sea disdain the little rivulet flowing into its vast bosom. Wherefore his presumption in submitting the foregoing to Y. E's consideration: he hopes you will do him the honor of reading it. He is troubled beyond measure at his audacity in presuming to address Y. E. and with a profound deference he begs to remain etc.

Memorial regarding a proposition for the establishment of a Company to undertake the monopoly of opium.

Postscript memorial by Li Hung Chang regarding a proposition of certain merchants of Canton to establish a Company at Hongkong for the monopoly of opium.

It appears - generally - from the draft of Regulations which the merchants in question have at different times commissioned others to submit on their behalf to Memorialist, that the said merchants propose to form a Company with a capital of $30.000.000. An agreement shall first be made with the Government of India and a satisfactory set of Regulations adopted, by which the importation of Indian opium shall be limited to so many chests per annum, and the price thereof fixed at so much per chest. All the opium shall be taken over and paid for by the said Company, which will supply the demand for opium at all the ports of China. No

opium

opium from India shall be permitted to go to other parts of China, or be sold to other parties in China. If, after the quantity fixed upon is sold, there be a further demand for opium, the Company will write to India for an additional supply. The Company shall, in proportion as the opium is sold, pay over to the Chinese Government the sum of one hundred and 00 taels per chest for all duties and taxes on the opium.

About the month of May, 1881, an English official named Marshall visited China by order of his Government to ascertain what quantity of opium was yearly sold at the ports of China. At an interview with Marshall the said merchants talked over their plan of establishing a Company, and he replied that he would bear the subject in mind, and if England and China were willing to entertain their proposal he would write to them. etc.

The said merchants have further requested people going to the Capital to talk with memorialist about their scheme, and other

who

who are well informed about the subject, and are familiar with the question of foreign relations have also addressed him.

Memorialist would observe that all the opium which comes from India must first go to Hongkong from which place much of it is smuggled into China. It appears from the Returns of the Inspector General of Maritime Customs that over 20,000 chests of opium are annually smuggled into China: taking the rate of 150 Tls. per chest - which is the amount of duty and tax it is now proposed to levy - we find that over 3,000,000 Tls. are annually lost to the Revenue through smuggling. The sudden increase of taxation which it is proposed to inaugurate at all the ports, will inevitably lead unprincipled dealers to convey opium from Hongkong to places along the coast where there are no Customs stations and dispose of it surreptitiously here and there, and thereby make large profit from very little capital. It would be - as the saying goes - like chasing your fish into

into deep water, and birds into a thick grove," thereby making it difficult to catch them. Deception would be carried on to such an extent as to baffle control, and the laws would at times be insufficient to punish the frauds.

A Company should be established at Hongkong composed of honest, respectable, and well-to-do Chinese merchants to undertake the opium monopoly; they should be guided in all questions by the Government. By this means the Government will have control of the traffic, and smuggling will be prevented, and not only will millions of taels be yearly added to the Revenue, but an enormous saving may be effected by abolishing the duty-stations all over the Empire and doing away with the opium-revenue. Memorialist believes that the parties referred to in the beginning of this memorial are mostly well-to-do merchants, who have for many years traded at Canton, Hongkong, and those ports, and are therefore well acquainted with the conditions of domestic and foreign trade. When other wealthy merchants hear of the

the scheme they will be glad to take shares in the Company; the capital will be easily subscribed when it is known that a company is to be established for the opium monopoly, and the profitable nature of the undertaking is made apparent to shareholders. The Company should provide bonds securing the payment of duties and dollies, and stringent regulations should be framed. A high official should be specially appointed to superintend the proceedings, and collect the Duties, which may be distributed among the different provinces pro rata to the amounts heretofore collected by each for duties and dollies on opium. The surplus may be remitted to the Government Treasury, and there need be no anxiety in future about shortness of funds. The port of Hongkong, however, is an English Colony, and there is a Governor resident there; it will be necessary for the said merchants to come to an understanding with the Governor, and the Viceroy of India; and if the British Government consent to their proposition, they should obtain a charter by which

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no foreign merchants will be allowed to sell opium to Chinese or to smuggle it into China, or interfere with their undertaking in any way. It is only on this condition that the scheme will prove successful.

The question is one which concerns both India and China alike, and it is not in our power to deal with it alone. Mr. Marshall visited memorialist before returning to England, but he (memorialist) was unable to learn what are the intentions of England & India in regard to this matter. Memorialist has sent word, through the delegates who presented to him the draft of Regulations, to the merchants at Canton requesting them to consult with the English authorities as to some satisfactory mode of procedure, and when their negotiations assume a definite form, to submit the result to him in order that he may communicate the real facts to the Tsung-li-yamen and the Viceroy of the Two Kiang for their consideration and action.

Memorialist begs to say in

conclusion,

conclusion that the proposition to increase the taxation of opium at all the ports will be sure to result in a considerable amount of smuggling and that no good end will after-all be gained by the measure; he feels it his duty therefore to suggest the foregoing mode of proceeding; whether or not it will prove successful he cannot undertake to say in advance. In addition to communicating the substance of the proposal to the Tsung-li-Yamen for their consideration and action, he feels bound to submit the general outlines of the plan to the Throne. Penetrate, he implores the Sacred Clemency thereon; and that it may please Your Majesty to issue your instructions accordingly.

(Comments by the Editor of a certain paper recommending the adoption of the plan of establishing a Company for the monopoly of Opium as suggested in the Memorial of Li Hung Chang.)

Alas! that the gold of our land should be drained by this inexhaustible black poison; that we should be afflicted with a scourge which is impoverishing both the country and the people. The Grand Secretary Wojin when in the State Council was always grieved because of this. To stop the wealth of the country from flowing away it is indispensable that the opium traffic be prohibited. The proposition to increase the taxation of opium as a means of gradually stopping its consumption is said by some to be a dilatory and accomodating process. China well knows that the opium-evil is widespread in the land and that it must be stopped; but on the other hand there are difficulties in the way of stopping it, nay - even reluctance to do so - while to ~~abolish~~ its continuance in the country would be

(eminently

eminently wrong; a dilatory and accomodating mode of procedure seems therefore the only one adapted to the situation.

H. E. Hsu-Sung-Tao when acting as Envoy abroad sent an urgent appeal to the Throne praying that measures be taken for the suppression of the opium traffic, but well Knowing that it could not be done in a moment he suggested three years as the time required. H. E. Tso Tsung Tang also Knew that the opium-evil cannot be swept out of the country at a stroke, wherefore he suggested the plan of increasing the taxation on it. Oh! that this national calamity which is impoverishing the nation should be suffered to exist in the country in the shape of opium. Commissioner Lin in former years frequently said in his memorials. 'If opium is not "prohibited, 20 years later the army will "be unfit for service, and there will "be no funds to meet emergencies". To allow the opium vice to continue in the country would be as Commissioner Lin said to allow the energies of the people and the

wealth

wealth of the country to be wasted by it.
Commissioner Lin appeared to be still
more concerned about its evil effects
than Keshen, since he spoke of its
demoralizing effect on the army. The
evils, however, all owe their birth to the
toleration of opium; wherefore it is
an imperative necessity to make
rigorous efforts for its interdiction. Why
seek to shirk the duty by saying there
are difficulties and reluctance which
hamper action? It is well known that
on the representation of Hsu Sung-Jao
an Imperial decree was issued ordering
the high Provincial Authorities to
report on the subject, but although many
years have elapsed since nothing more
has been heard about it. One asks have
the reports never been made, or have they
been kept private? There is surely no lack
of wisdom and resource among the public
officers of the Empire, and is it possible
that there is no one who can devise a
wise plan for dealing with the opium-question?
Are we to be left to bemoan the times

and

and say while England has a Society for the suppression of the Opium traffic, China has not even a way of dealing with it!

This would indeed be a lamentable folly. We fully recognize the sincerity of purpose of these who, helping China to deal with the evil, put it in the light - that there are difficulties and even reluctance in the way of action which renders necessary a dilatory and accomodating policy.

The reason why H. E. Tso Tsung Tang memorialized for the increase of taxation of opium was because he knew it could not be prohibited; he hopes the vice may gradually die out by enhancing the price of the drug. Instead, however, of adopting this plan which would give rise to innumerable abuses, it would be far preferable to establish a Company to undertake the monopoly of opium and have the control of the trade in our hands.

The Draft of Regulations submitted on behalf of the merchants of Canton by H. E. Li-Hung-Chang fully comprehends the situation and is an excellent method

for

for dealing with the question. If the vice of opium smoking can be directly prohibited, it should be done, if it cannot, then the taxation of the drug should be increased, and to do this effectually the only way is to sanction the establishment of a Company. The double proposition to increase the taxation of opium and to establish a Company for the monopoly was suggested some ten years ago by Mr. Chang, Interpreter of the Legation at Japan. He could do no more than recommend the scheme however, he had no power to act. The propositions put forth today first by H. E. Li to increase the taxation, and subsequently by H. E. Li to establish a Company for the Opium monopoly tally exactly with the idea of Mr. Chang. These tried and experienced officers of the country show much discretion in their administration of affairs. H. E. Li in his far seeing wisdom said, since the business concerns both England and China we cannot presume to act independently.

Seeing that the Chefoo Convention

has

has been left unratified till this day because of the clause stipulating for Letin on opium, and against which British merchants have raised much murmuring, it is not unlikely that there will be objections raised against the agreement which it is now proposed to make with India, and that they will try to influence the action of the British Government. Neither is it easy to say how the Indian Government will view the proposal to limit the price and the importation of the drug; whether they will not regard it as prejudicial to their interests. If the scheme is once adopted China can carry it out without any difficulty and the finances of the country will be benefited. It will be a great good for China: but whether England will see the way clear to accept it, is an important consideration which makes us apprehensive as to its accomplishment.

All who are interested in the welfare of the country cannot but earnestly hope for its success.

No. 58. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, February 1st, 1882.

APR 7 1882 RECEIVED

Chester Holcombe to the Secretary of State.

Subject.

Passport returns.

Synopsis.

Covers a statement of the passports issued during the year ended December 31st, 1881.

No. 58. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, February 1st, 1882.

Honorable F. T. Frelinghuysen,
Secretary of State!

Sir:—

I have the honor to enclose herewith a statement of the passports, twenty one in number, which were issued from this Legation during the year ended December 31st 1881. 1/58.

The fees therefor amount to $105., of which Hon. Angell credited the Government with $15. in his despatch number 219. of October 1st. The balance, — say $90. — will be carried

carried to the credit of the United States in my salary account for the current quarter.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant.
Chester Holcombe

Enclosure.

1. Return of Passports issued in 1881.

Despatch No. 58.
Enclosure.

Passport Returns.

1881.

Return of Passports

No	Name	Date	State or Country	Age
273	W. S. Sayres	Jan. 6		29
274	G. C. Richards	" "		47
275	Marcus L. Taft	Apr. 14		30
276	V. C. Hart	" 20		41
281	Mott Hooten	May 7		41
282	William W. Royall	Aug. 15		30
283	David H. Davis	Oct. 5		36
284	Cora Bell	" 11		31
285	G. C. Hopkins	Dec. 8		35 ✓
286	E. W. Rice	" "		41
287	W. H. Macomber	" 12		35
288	G. H. Wheeler	" 13		45
289	C. J. Ashley	" 16		46
290	A. B. French	" 20		32
291	J. E. Stubbert	" 28		22
293	James H. Roberts	Jan. 28		30
241a	Lucius W. Wheeler	Nov. 11		42
242a	Henry B. Endicott	" 18		36
243a	Benj. C. Henry	" 28		31
244a	Spencer Lewis	Dec. 1		27
245a	O. C. Jansen	" 2		41

Legation of the United States

Peking, February 1st, 1882.

Feb 1/87

issued during the year 1881.

Height	Eyes	Nose	Hair	Face	Complexion
5.8	brown	regular	brown	Round	dark ✓
6.0	blue	straight	black	oval	" ✓
5.5	hazel	grecian	"	long	" ✓
5.10	blue	medium	grey	"	florid ✓
5.10	"	"	"	oval	" ✓
5.8½	"	large	dark	"	dark ✓
5.8	black	"	black	round	" ✓
5.6	grey	stub	light	oval	fair ✓
5.7¾	blue	roman	"	"	blonde ✓
5.11	"	straight	grey	"	dark ✓
5.8	"	long	brown	"	fair ✓
5.11	"	roman	light	"	light ✓
5.5	black	"	black	"	dark ✓
5.6	hazel	straight	brown	"	" ✓
5.8½	black	aquiline	black	"	" ✓
5.11	blue	straight	light	round	fair ✓
5.9	grey	aquiline	"	thin	light ✓
5.10	brown	straight	brown	broad	red ✓
5.4	"	ordinary	light	oval	fair ✓
6.0	blue	large	dark	long	light ✓
5.11	grey	aquiline	brown	round	" ✓

E. O. E.

Chester Falconbe

Chargé d'affaires -

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made

No. 59.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, February 2nd, 1882.

APR 15 1882 RECEIVED

Chester Holcombe to
the Secretary of State.

PRINTED. FOREIGN RELATIONS. 1882

Subject.

Dredging of Wooeung Bar.

Synopsis.

Refers to despatch number 54, and states that the Foreign Office has confirmed the information given in it.

No. 59.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, February 2nd, 1882.

Honorable F. T. Frelinghuysen
Secretary of State.

Sir:—

Referring to my despatch number 54. in regard to the dredging of the Woosung Bar, I have the honor to inform you that I mentioned the matter to the Ministers of the Foreign Office today.

They requested me, informally, to say to the Department that the scheme as given in the newspaper extract is correct; that work is to be begun within the current

current year; that the water on the bar is to be deepened by about 10 feet; (which will give, I believe, an average depth of about 26 feet at high water) and that the entire expense is to be borne by the Chinese Government, no tax for it being laid upon the commerce of Shanghai.

I thanked the Ministers for this information, and congratulated them on behalf of the Government of the United States, upon their decision to undertake this much needed improvement.

I have the honor to be,
Sir, Your obedient servant.
Chester Holcombe

File

Confidential.

No. 60.



Legation of the United States.
Peking, February 4th, 1882.

Chester Holcombe to
the Secretary of State.

Subject.

China, and treaty negotiation with Corea.

Synopsis.

Reports a conversation had with the Foreign Office. The Emperor of China has urged Corea to make treaties with Western Powers, and first with the United States for reasons stated. The King of Corea has replied expressing his readiness to do so. China promises to assist us to conclude a treaty with Corea.

Confidential.

No. 60.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, February 4th, 1882.

Honorable F. T. Frelinghuysen.

Secretary of State.

Sir:—

Two days since, at an interview with the Ministers of the Foreign Office, I brought up the Corean question with a view to learn what the attitude of this Government would be and what assistance might be expected from it, in our proposed negotiations for a treaty with Corea.

I conceived that it was

of

of importance to secure some information upon these points, since all the assistance and encouragement which has hitherto been given to Commodore Shufeldt has come from the viceroy Li Hung Chang who, though a person of great influence and power, is only a Provincial Officer and not a member of the Central Government. It was desirable to learn how far his assurances of support and assistance would be borne out by the Imperial Authorities.

The Ministers answered with more freedom and readiness than I had anticipated, and furnished some information which

which has an important
bearing upon the proposed
attempt to negotiate a treaty
by our Government.

The Department is
doubtless aware that hitherto
all business between China
and Corea has been transacted
through the "Board of Rites"
here in Peking. This is the
highest, and most conservative,
of the six bureaus or
departments of the Government,
and in past years has played
the part of a most effective
obstruction to any intercourse,
by means of the Government
of China, between Western
Powers and Corea. This was
notably manifest in the

attempts

attempts made here by
Minister Low to pave the way
for his Mission to Corea in
1871.

The Ministers informed
me that their Government had
recently become convinced of
the desirability of the establishment
of commercial relations between
Corea and foreign Powers. About
a year ago Prince Kung
[illegible] effected the
transfer of the charge of Corean
matters from the Board of Rites
to the Foreign Office. Immediately
thereafter a letter was addressed
by the Emperor of China to the
King of Corea strongly urging
him to enter into treaty relations
with Western Powers and

advising

advising him to first conclude a treaty with the United States.

The Ministers frankly said to me that the action of their Government was mainly influenced by the belief that sooner or later the autonomy of Korea would be threatened by the agressions of Russia and Japan, and that this serious danger could be best met by bringing the peninsular Kingdom into the family of nations. And they were desirous that the United States should be the first to enter into treaty relations with Korea because, in general, they counted much upon the conciliatory and moderate disposition and

policy

policy of our Government, and because, in particular, they were anxious that Corea, like Japan and unlike China, should be spared the opium curse. They doubted not that our Government would willingly consent to the introduction of an anti-opium article in a treaty made with Corea, which action on our part, would determine that question in any treaties made later.

Hence the Emperor's letter was prepared as indicated, and it was put into the hands of Viceroy Li to be forwarded.

The Ministers said further that a reply had been received

received from the King of Corea, who expressed himself as willing and even anxious to conclude a treaty with us. They added that the King and a large portion of the people of Corea understand the situation and are ready for foreign intercourse, but that in Corea, as in China, there is an anti-foreign faction.

The Ministers concluded by expressing the readiness of their Government to aid the United States in any proper way to open friendly and commercial relations with Corea.

In the absence of Commodore Shufeldt, to whom the

the proposed negotiations are entrusted, I did not think it wise to pursue the conversation further at the moment. After thanking the Ministers warmly for this information, and for their expressions of confidence in, and good will towards, our Government, I allowed the subject to drop.

It is perhaps unnecessary to warn the Department that, while there is much ground for satisfaction and encouragement in the attitude assumed by China, Oriental Governments are not noted either for their frankness or consistency, and it is always possible that in the future, for reasons which

which cannot be discovered by me, the Imperial Government may see fit to assume an entirely different attitude and policy in this business.

I am expecting the arrival of Commodore Shufeldt in this city shortly, when we shall consult together in regard to these matters to the end that all possible cooperation and assistance may be afforded him by this Legation.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

Chester Holcombe

~~File~~ China — trade

Special Mission of the U.S.

In South America

Viña del Mar Chile

Feb 8 1882

Mr Trescot

to

The Assistant Secretary of State

Subject-

In reference to his accounts

as Commissioner Plenipotentiary

to China

Special Mission of the U.S.
In South America
Viña del Mar Chile
Feb 8 1882

Hon J.C.B. Davis
Assistant Secretary of State
Sir.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of yours of the 24th December 1881, enclosing a communication from the Comptroller of the Treasury in reference to the adjustment of the accounts of Mr Swift and myself as Commissioners Plenipotentiary to China.

If the Comptroller is authorized to require from us "an exhibit of the amounts disbursed under the several specific heads named in the Act" such

an exhibit will have to be postponed until my return as I have no memorandum here relating to the expenditure of that Mission and could not make such an exhibit from memory.

While I presume that the Comptroller is correct in his statement of the principle that a specific appropriation can be applied only to its specific purpose, it seems to me that the application of the principle is a matter between the State Department and the Treasury with which I have no concern.

When I left on the Chinese Mission I was instructed by the Secretary of State, as you will find on record - that my compensation

would be at the rate of ten thousand dollars per annum and that my expenses going and returning and such as were consequent upon my residence in China, would be allowed by the Depart= =ment and I was authorised to draw at my convenience.

My drafts in duplicate to the instructions were drawn upon the Secretary of State for salary and expen= =ses and were paid, and my accounts of such drafts were upon my return and at the close of the Mission, exam= =ined and approved by Secretary Evarts under whom the Mission was created and by Secretary Blaine under whom it terminated.

I cannot see that I could have been expected to enquire out

of what fund the Secretary of State paid the drafts. I am certainly warranted in assuming that a Secretary of State understands his own business and that my only duty is to obey my instructions.

At this present moment I have not the remotest idea whether an appropriation has been made to meet the expenses of the present Mission but I would scarcely feel justified in saying to the Department that I could not go to Lima or La Paz, where my prompt presence may be needed at any moment from the termination of the negotiation, until I had been informed whether such appropriation had been made.

It seems to me

therefore that the question raised by the Comptroller is one entirely between the State Department and the Treasury.

But if any information in my possession can aid in stating the expenditures so as to conform them to the technical requirement of the law, it will on my return be gladly furnished

I have the honour to be
your obedient servant.

Wm Henry Trescot

No. 61.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
APR 15 1882
RECEIVED

Legation of the United States.
Peking, February 10th, 1882.

Chester Holcombe to the Secretary of State.

Subject.

Receipt of instructions.

Synopsis.

Department instructions numbers 139. 140. and 141. have been received.

No. 61.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, February 10th, 1882.

Honorable F. T. Frelinghuysen.
Secretary of State.

Sir:—

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Department instructions, numbered 139. 140. and 141. respectively.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant.
Chester Holcombe

Do not think she settled

made

No. 62. Four Enclosures.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, February 10th. 1882.

APR 15 1882 RECEIVED

Chester Holcombe to
the Secretary of State.

Subject.

Transfer of Legation from Mr. Angell to Mr. Holcombe.

Synopsis.

Refers to Department instruction, number 141., states the mode of transfer, reasons for delay in Shanghai, date of arrival in Peking, time and manner of presentation to the Chinese Authorities which took place at Peking, and not at Shanghai, and requests

requests to be relieved from
censure for his course.

No. 62. Four Enclosures.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, February 10th, 1882.

Honorable F. T. Frelinghuysen.
Secretary of State.

Sir:—

I have had the honor to receive the Department's instruction number 141., in response to Mr. Angell's despatch, number 227. and my number 1., disapproving his action in leaving Peking prior to my arrival and my course in taking charge of the Legation at Shanghai, and asking me to inform the Department of the exact date of my arrival at Peking, when I notified the

the Chinese Authorities that I was to act as Chargé d'Affaires, and how I secured presentation to the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The Department will readily understand that, in Mr. Angell's absence, I am unable to furnish any information going to show whether his departure from Peking, prior to my arrival here, was or was not imperatively necessary. I find, however, from the records that upon the 1st of October Mr. Angell formally notified Prince Kung that he was about to leave Peking, that he expected to meet one either at

Lientsin

Tientsin or Shanghai where I would be placed in charge of the Legation, and that Mr. Acting Interpreter Taylor would remain in the Legation and receive any communications prior to my arrival. Upon the 3rd of October Prince & Kung replied to Mr. Angell's despatch. I enclose copies of this correspondence. 1/62 2/62.

As to my own course in this matter, I beg leave to state for the information of the Department, that I reached Shanghai in the evening of October 6th. Immediately upon landing from the Japanese steamer a letter from Mr. Angell, dated Peking, September

September 18th/4, was put into my hands. From it I quote the following sentences: —

"If you can get to Lientsin
"safely by the 7th/4 or even
"8th/4, meet me there. If you
"cannot, await me at
"Shanghai."

As the voyage from Shanghai to Lientsin requires from four to six days, it was manifestly impossible for me to meet Mr. Angell at Lientsin, and, as it was necessary for me to see him, the only possible course was to await his arrival at Shanghai.

Mr. Angell reached Shanghai in the evening of October

October 12th, the next day, October 13th, he turned over the business of the Legation to me. Perhaps I should explain just here, that the transfer of the Legation to me at Shanghai consisted simply, first, in my receipting to him for a balance in his hands of the Legation allowance for incidental expenses (see my despatch, number 41.) and for the Government furniture in the Legation (see my number 8.); and, second, in formal notifications to the Department (see Mr. Angell's Separate Des. 6. and my number 1.) and to the Consuls in China that he had handed

handed over, and I had assumed charge of the Legation.

I left Shanghai upon the 14th inst. of October, made no delay en route, and reached Peking at noon, October 25th inst. The same
3/62. day a despatch was sent to the Prince Kung, of which I enclose a copy, informing him of my arrival and that I was in charge of the Legation. At the same time a note was sent to the Prince, as is customary here, requesting him to name a day when I might call and pay my respects. The Prince responded immediately fixing the 27th inst. of October for my visit, and
4/62. answered my formal despatch upon

upon the 30th ult.

I infer from one paragraph in the instruction under reply that the Department is under the impression that I was presented to the Chinese Authorities at Shanghai, and accepted their recognition as authorizing me to enter upon my duties. Were such the case I should justly merit the severest rebuke which the Department might see fit to inflict. But in point of fact I saw none of the Chinese officials at Shanghai even in the way of friendly visits.

In view of the facts herein narrated, I beg leave most

most respectfully to submit:—
first, that I was in no way responsible for the departure of Mr. Angell from Peking prior to my arrival;
second. that the course taken by me, in view of his departure, was the only course possible; and
third. that I should be relieved of the censure which the Department has imposed upon me in the instruction under reply.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

Chester Holcombe

Enclosures.

Enclosures.

1. Hon. Angell to Prince Kung.
   67/1881. October 1st M. 1881.
2. Prince Kung in response.
   70/1881. October 3rd M. 1881.
3. Hon. Holcombe to Prince Kung.
   72/1881. October 25th M. 1881.
4. Prince Kung in response.
   73/1881. October 30th M. 1881.

Despatch No. 62.
Enclosure 1.

Mr. Angell to Prince Kung.
6/1881. October 1st, 1881.

Y. I. H.

I beg to announce to you that I intend to leave Peking on the 4th inst. of October at noon. I expect to meet Mr. Secretary Holcombe at Tientsin or Shanghai and shall then leave him in charge of the Legation. Mr. Acting Interpreter Taylor will remain at the Legation and will receive any communications which Your Imperial Highness may desire to make to the Legation.

I am, etc.,

(signed) James B. Angell.

Inclosure in Despatch No. 62.

70/1881.

Inclosure 2.

Prince Kung, Chief Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, herewith makes a communication in reply.

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of Y. E. communication of the 1st instant informing me of your intended departure from Peking on the 4th instant, that you expect to meet Mr. Secretary Holcombe on your journey when you will give him charge of the Legation, and requesting me to forward any communications I might wish to make to the Legation to Mr. Acting Interpreter Taylor who will receive them.

In reply I beg to say that the contents of your despatch have been carefully noted, and that, as requested, after your departure from Peking and pending Mr. Holcombe's arrival, any communications which we may have to make to your Legation will be forwarded to Mr. Acting Interpreter Taylor.

H. E. James B. Angell,
etc. etc. etc.

Peking, October 3rd, 1881.

Despatch No. 62.
Enclosure 3.

Mr. Holcombe
72/1881.

to Prince Kung.
October 25th, 1881.

Y. I. H.

Referring to Mr. Angell's communication of October 1st, to Y. I. H. in which he informed you that as he was "leaving for home he would transfer "the business of the Legation to the charge "of Mr. Secretary Holcombe whom he "expected to meet either at Tientsin or "Shanghai." I have now to inform you that I met Mr. Angell at Shanghai on the 13th October, on which day he transferred the Legation to my charge, and that I arrived in Peking on the 25th instant.

I beg Y. I. H. to communicate with me in future respecting matters of public business with this Legation.

(signed) Chester Holcombe.

Despatch No. 62.
Enclosure 4.

73/1881.

Prince Kung, Chief Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, herewith makes a communication in reply.

I have had the honor to receive Y. E. despatch informing me of your arrival in Peking, and requesting that matters of public business with the Legation be communicated in future to you.

In reply I beg to say that I shall have pleasure in complying with the above request,

H. E. Chester Holcombe
etc, etc. etc.

Peking, October 30th, 1881.

file

Made

No. 63. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, February 13th, 1882.

RECEIVED
MAR
15
1882

Chester Holcombe to the Secretary of State.

Subject.

Legation repair account.

Synopsis.

Forwards a statement of the repair account of the Legation for the year ended December 31st, 1881.

No. 63. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, February 13th, 1882.

Honorable F. T. Frelinghuysen.

Secretary of State.

Sir:—

Referring to the seventh section of the lease of the premises occupied by this Legation, I have the honor to forward herewith a statement of the cost of the repairs made during the year ended December 31st, 1881. 1/63.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

Chester Holcombe

Enclosure.

Enclosure.

1. Statement of Legation repair account for the year ended December 31st, 1881.

Despatch No. 63.

Enclosure.

Legation repair account.

1881.

The Legation of the United States

1881		Mex.	
June 13	To bill for paper "A."	$ 217	68
	" 10% discount on Mex.	21	77
Nov. —	" freight on paper "B." Boston to Peking.	30	40
Oct. 8	" bill for paint "C."	26	40
Dec. 31	" miscellaneous repair account. "D."	270	32
" "	" bill for paper hanging "E"	26	33
" "	" petty account for hardware etc "F."	17	86
" "	" balance forward	144	47
		$ 755	23

Legation of the United States
Peking, February 10th, 1882

in Account for Repairs.

1881			Cr.	
Jan. 1	By balance forward		$ 155	23
	see Inv. Angell's Ins. 86,			
Dec. 31	" annual allowance for repairs as per lease		600	00
			$ 755	23
1882				
Jan. 1	By balance forward		$ 144	47

E. & O. E,
S. Wells Williams
by his Attorney in fact.
Chester Holcombe
4

To avoid mistakes, send samples when you order.

Boston, June 13 1881

United States Legation (Peking)

Bought of J. H. Robinson & Co.

Successors to GREGORY & ROBINSON,

IMPORTERS, JOBBERS, AND RETAILERS OF

FRENCH AND AMERICAN PAPER HANGINGS,

Terms: Cash without discount. No. 406 WASHINGTON STREET. J. H. ROBINSON. C. H. WHITMARSH. C. W. ROBINSON.

1395	38 Pcs Paper	Parlor	125	47 50	" A "	
	36 Yds Frieze		100	36 00		
	100 ft Pin		6	6 00		
8	5 Pcs Velvet		300	15		
400	6 " pl		60	3 60		
	108 " Gilt Moulding		8	8 64		
	160 Corners		2	3 20		
2040	14 Pcs Paper	Ceiling	150	21 00		
	36 Yds Bor		10	3 60		
2027	30 Pcs Paper	Libs	75	22 50		
	30 Yds Border		"	22 50		
	80 ft Pin		6	4 80		
89	9 Pcs Paper		150	13 50		
	54 Yds Bor		8	4 32		
TBM	4 Pcs Paper	Ceiling	75	3 00		
2034	8 " "		150	12 00		
	28 Yds Bor		15	4 20		
649	60 Pcs Paper		15	9		
	3 Doz Hooks		50	1 50	241 86	
	dis 10%				24 18	
					217 68	

Per Taylor

J H Robinson Son & Co

Shanghai, Oct 8 1881

U. S. S. Legation Peking

"6."

Bought of Lane, Crawford & Co.

10 gal Mixed paint	2.50	25	00
Freight		1	40
	$	26	40

RECEIVED PAYMENT,
LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.

"B."

Peking, March 16th, 1881.

United States Legation

to

Chester Holcombe

Dr.

To freight and insurance on two cases
wall paper from Boston to Peking $ 30.40

Received payment.
Chester Holcombe

"K."

The United States Legation Dr.
To Builder Li

	Tiao	$	To.
February 1881.			
To miscellaneous repairs	28.800		
March.			
" 15 masons	39.000		
" 17 day laborers	30.600		
" bricks	115.140		
" lime	24.000		
" hemp	3.500		
" tiles	0.900		
" iron grates	4.200		
" tiles	15.400		
April			
" 1 pane glass	6.000		
" 3 " "	6.200		
June			
" 7 carpenters	18.200		
" 3 panes of glass	3.000		
" iron latch	0.800		
" 6 hinges	3.600		
" nails	0.600		
" "	2.040		
" repairing door	1.200		
forward	303.180		

	Tias	₱.	Ps
forward	303.180		
To iron-bolt	4.000		
" " catch	0,800		
" " latch	0,800		
" repairing a lock	3.800		
" " floor	2.000		
" 5 masons	13.000		
" 4 day-laborers	7.200		
" lime	14.080		
" hemp	14.000		
" sand	4.800		
" pane of glass	7.500		
" 4 Carpenters	10.400		
" nails	1.860		
" 2 iron-latches	1.000		
" hinges	2.000		
" 5 iron-latches	3.000		
" 2 masons & 2 coolies	8.800		
" lime & mortar	6.400		
" chopped hemp	4.500		
" sand	1.400		
" iron grating	3.000		
July			
" Repairing and oiling floor of Secretary's house			18.00
forward	416.320		18.00

	Tias	$.	Do.
forward	446.520		18.00
August			
To sundry repairs	20.500		
" a Chinese Closet		16.00	
October			
" 1 mason	2.600		
" 100 catties quicklime	3.600		
" 6 " chopped hemp	2.500		
" 3 tow rand	4.200		
" 9 carpenters	23.400		
" 2 brass rollers		1.40	
" iron wire	0.900		
" 4 ceresin rings	0.800		
" 3 pairs glass	8.500		
November			
" Erecting a bath room & closet			78.00
" sundry repairs to servants quarters			17.00
" 5 iron bars	22.800		
" 1 board	11.000		
December			
" 1 Cupboard		10.00	
" 2 carpenters	5.200		
" 1 roller	2.500		
forward	524.920	27.40	113.00

	Taels	$.	Ps.
forward	524.920	27.40	113.00
January 1882.			
To 2 carpenters	5.200		
" 2 wooden props	4.000		
" 80 nails	1.360		
" 1 screw ring	0.800		
" painting and varnishing Secretary's house			23.50
total	536.280	$ 27.40	136.50
Taels 536.280 @ 114 =		$ 47.92	
Taels 136.50 @ .70		195.00	
Total		$270.32	

Peking, February 10th, 1882.

長順局

Received payment.

"E."

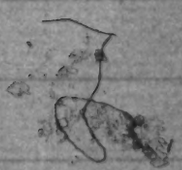
The United States Legation Dr.
To Yun Chiao Chai (paper-hanger)

Coarse wall paper	tiao	116.000
Nails, twine etc.	"	2.000
Paste	"	12.800
Labor of paper hangers	"	156.000
	"	286.800
Coarse wall paper	"	3.420
Paste	"	1.220
Labor of paper hangers	"	6.000
total	"	296.440

or Mex. $26.33.

Peking, February 10th 1882, 雲巧齋

Receive payment.



"F."

Peking, Dec. 31st, 1881.

United States Legation to
Chester Holcombe Dr,

To petty account for hardware $ 17.86.

Received payment,
Chester Holcombe

File

No. 64. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States
Peking, February 15th, 1882.

APR 15 1882 RECEIVED

Chester Holcombe to
the Secretary of State

Subject.

Passport returns for 1881.

Synopsis.

Refers to despatch number 58. and forwards a duplicate statement.

No. 64. One Enclosure.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, February 13th, 1882.

Honorable F. T. Frelinghuysen.

Secretary of State.

Sir:—

Referring to my despatch number 581 I have the honor to forward, herewith, a duplicate statement of the passports issued by this Legation during the year ended December 31st, 1881. 1/64.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

Chester Holcombe

Enclosure.

Enclosure.

1. Duplicate statement of passports issued during the year 1881.

Despatch No. 64.

Enclosure.

Passport returns.

1881.

Duplicate.

Return of Passports

No	Name	Date	State or Country	Age
273	W. S. Sayres	Jan. 6		29
274	G. C. Richards	" "		47
275	Marcus L. Taft	Apr. 14		30
276	V. C. Hart	" 20		41
281	Mott Hooten	May 7.		41
282	William W. Royall	Aug. 15		30
283	David H Davis	Oct. 5		36
284	Cora Bell	" 11		31
285	G. C. Hopkins	Dec. 8		35
286	E. W. Rice	" "		41
287	W. H. Macomber	" 12		35
288	G. H. Wheeler	" 13		45
289	C. J. Ackley	" 16		46
290	A. B. French	" 20		32
291	J. E. Stubbert	" 28		22
293	James H. Roberts	Jan. 28		30
241 a	Lucius W. Wheeler	Nov. 11		42
242 a	Henry B. Endicott	" 18		36
243 a	Benj. C. Henry	" 28		31
244 a	Spencer Lewis	Dec. 1		27
245 a	O. C. Jansen	" 2		41

Legation of the United States.
Peking, February 1st, 1882.

issued during the year 1881.

Height	Eyes	Nose	Hair	Face	Complexion
5', 8	brown	regular	brown	French	dark
6. 0	blue	straight	black	oval	"
5'. 5'	hazel	grecian	"	long	"
5', 10	blue	medium	grey	"	florid
5'. 10	"	"	"	oval	"
5', 8½	"	large	dark	"	dark
5', 8	black	"	black	round	"
5', 6	grey	stub	light	oval	fair
5', 7¾	blue	roman	"	"	blonde
5', 11	"	straight	grey	"	dark
5', 8	"	long	brown	"	fair
5', 11	"	roman	light	"	light
5', 5'	black	"	black	"	dark
5', 6	hazel	straight	brown	"	"
5', 8½	black	aquiline	black	"	"
5', 11	blue	straight	light	round	fair
5'. 9	grey	aquiline	"	thin	light
5', 10	brown	straight	brown	broad	red
5', 4	"	ordinary	light	oval	fair
6. 0	blue	large	dark	long	light
5', 11	grey	aquiline	brown	round	light

E. & O. E.

Chester Holcombe

Chief of Police.

ack

made

No. 65. Three Enclosures.

Legation of the United States.

Peking, February 18th, 1882.

APR 15 1882 RECEIVED

Chester Holcombe to the Secretary of State.

Subject.

Interference with missionary work at Le Cho.

Synopsis.

Refers to despatch number 18. and forwards copies of further correspondence. Good prospect of an early adjustment of the trouble.

Three Enclosures.

No. 65. Legation of the United States,
Peking, February 18th, 1882.

Honorable F. J. Frelinghuysen,
Secretary of State.

Sir:

Referring to my despatch No. 18, reporting to the Department certain complaints made by American missionaries resident at Tê Cho in the province of Shantung of the illegal interference of the local authorities in their work, and my action in the premises, I have now the honor to enclose further letters which have been received from Rev. H. D. Porter in the case; a copy of a despatch which I addressed to Prince Kung; and a translation of the response

1/65.
2/65.
3/65.

response made by the latter.

I need not trouble the Department with comments upon this case further than to say that the attitude of the Chinese Foreign Office has been reasonably satisfactory from the beginning and the somewhat vexatious delay in concluding the business has arisen solely from the indisposition of the Sub Prefect at Tê Cho to obey the orders of his superiors.

That official now appears inclined to be guided by better counsels and I hope to be able to report a satisfactory adjustment of the matter at issue at an early moment.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chester Holcombe

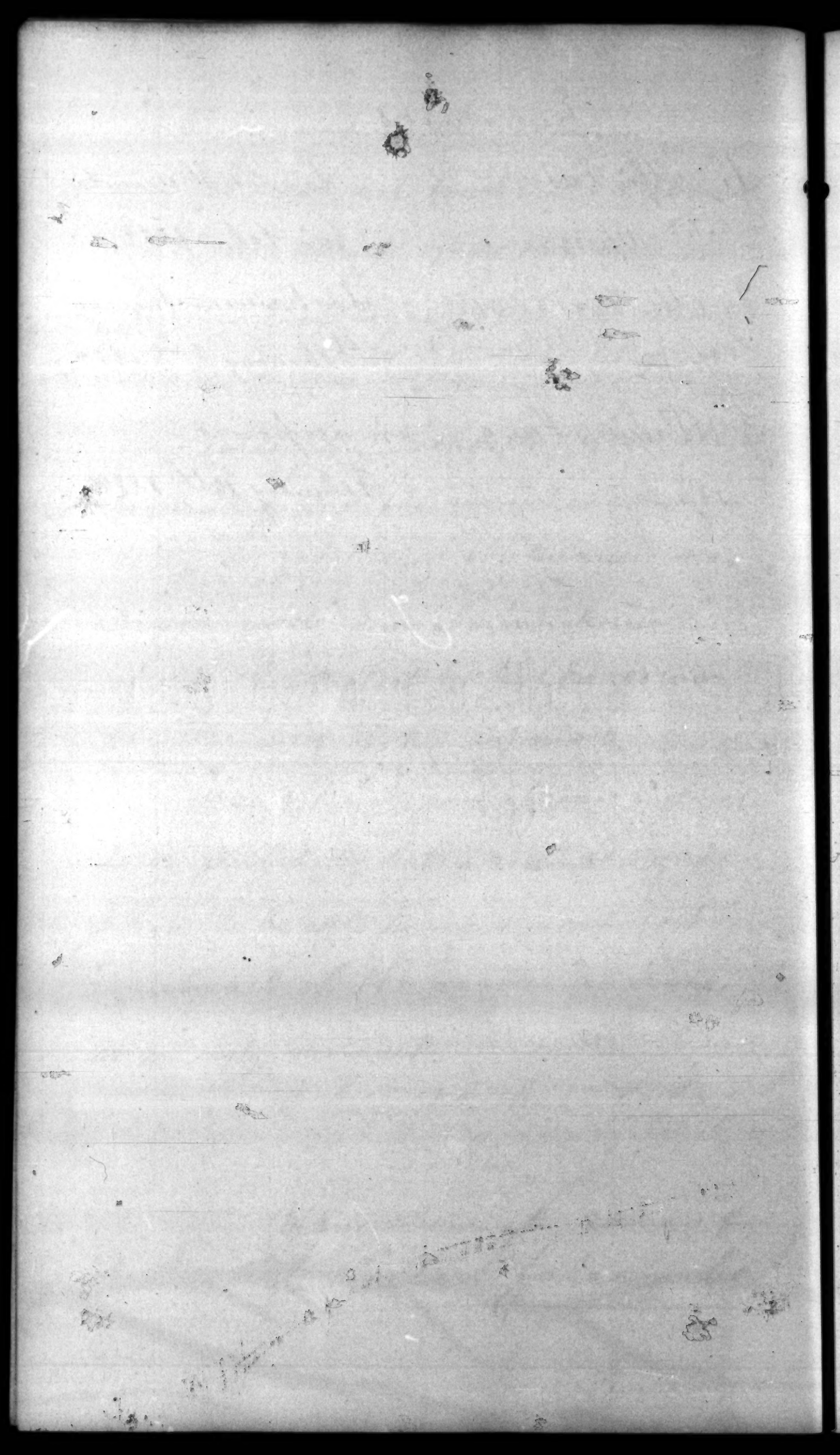
Enclosure

Enclosures.

1, Mr. Porter to Mr. Holcombe
5.7.8. 11/1882. Jan. Feb. 1882,

2, Mr. Holcombe to Prince Kung
8/1882, February 3rd, 1882,

3, Prince Kung in response
10/1882. February 16th, 1882,



Despatch No. 65.
Enclosure 1.

Dr. Porter

to Mr. Holcombe,
Pang Chia, Shantung, Jan. 24. 1882.

Dear Sir,

I have the honor to report a further step taken in the matter of the building presented to the Church at Ti-Chü by the widow Wu Hsia Shih.

Your letter to the Rev. A. H. Smith advising the representation of the original deed at the Tê-Cho Yamen in order to receive the official stamp reached me on the 10th of January. I still awaited some definite report of the order from Peking through the official channels.

This report reached me on Friday last the 20 January, in a sudden and somewhat disturbing manner. The wife of Wu Ch'ang T'ai accompanied by a neighbor met me, just beyond our own village, in a state of great alarm and excitement. She had hurried off at the request of her husband, who had been suddenly arrested that morning by runners from the Cho Yamen. Two Yamen runners had appeared with a warrant of arrest. The warrant as nearly as Wu Ch'ang T'ai can remember from having heard it read was as follows: — "The Provincial Governor approves

" approves the gift of the building at Tê-Ch'i
" for a "Government School", and orders Wu-
" Ch'ang T'ai, Lo Ta Ch'eng (the Tê fang) —
" Cheng Kung Liang (the Tê pao) and Lu Kuo-
" shien (the native helper) to appear at the
" Tê Cho Yamen in order to attest the —
" document, and sign the record." The Chinese
is as follows (〃. 〃. 〃. 〃. 〃.)

The import of the terms of arrest were so plain to my own mind and to the minds of my assistants, that I lost no time in getting ready to go to Tê Cho to prevent the scourging of the persons arrested. I submit as the interpretation of the warrant that the Tê Cho official had been called to account by the Fu T'ai for discrepancy in the documents presented, and that he had arrested the — Tê Fang, the Tê pao and Wu Ch'ang T'ai, the witnesses in the case with the purpose of forcing them to attest the veracity of the altered deed, and altered petition, in order to report to his superior that the parties themselves attested his report of the — matter, and that the foreign teacher had no case.

This

This interpretation of the warrant was fully borne out by the subsequent events.

I went to Ti Cho on Saturday January 21st (the 2nd of the 12th Chinese month) and went with as little delay as possible to the Yamen. Allow me to state that at my first visit in October, my own card and that of my helper Wu feng yi were presented. The official refused to allow my helper to follow me. It was not wholly necessary and I waived the point of the helper's presence. I determined not to do so a second time. Two cards were presented, but only myself was invited into the Yamen, I had previously bidden the helper to follow me under any circumstances. Reaching the inner gateway the doors were shut upon the helper; as I hesitated about going on without him, the card bearer shouted out "a great fuss about a small matter," Seeing I did not advance he said, after you are seated the helper may be invited. I accordingly went in and was courteously received. Having been seated I requested the officer to invite in my helper, whom I needed as an interpreter. He declined

to

to do so very vigorously, saying - "He is of the people and cannot come". I replied "he is not of your district, I need him, and must have him present". With evident disgust the official turned and said "Invite him in". So the helper came in. The same little drama was enacted when I requested that the official ask the helper to be seated, I deemed it essential that so much of courtesy should be paid to me. At the second request the official bade him be seated.

I then informed His Honor that I had had no word in the matter of the Ti Ch'i premises which he had promised to have stamped in due form. He said that he had been waiting for word from me. He then informed me he had received an order from the Yu T'ai to re-investigate the case. He accordingly sent for the official despatch of the Governor of Shantung which he handed me to read. I did not read it all nor did my helper to whom I handed it that he might read and explain what I did not understand.

I

I learned from this that the Futai had received orders from Peking respecting the matter. The item of importance to notice was the report from Peking did not agree with the report of the mandarin "Ch'ien hou pu fu," and the Cho official was ordered to explain the discrepancy by examining the widow Wu. If she were willing that it be given to the Jesus Church, it would be right to stamp the original deed. It was on the strength of this order that the Magistrate proceeded to collect evidence. The warrant included the arrest of the teacher Lu Kuo shien, in lieu of him the ti fang of his village. It was the evident purpose of the Official to defend his course, by securing the tortured attestation of the forged document.

I laid the original deed upon the table before us, and the altered document beside it, with the little strip of paper which had been issued from the Yamen approving the forged paper. The official seemed attracted by this little strip of writting. I said that the

'chien

"chien hou pu fu" was easily explained, and explained it to him by saying that someone had forced Su-kuo-shien to write a document in which the sentences alluded to in my former letter were elided. I took especial pains to point out the several sentences thus changed, With a readiness of manner charming in its utter veracity, the official said — "yes, there is a discrepancy and I have orders to investigate the widow must be examined and the witnesses and then we shall act according to law and treaty. I said that the widow was now living with her son-in-law at Shen Chu and could not be brought over easily — "Then she must be sent for". The mention of Wu Ch'ang T'ai was studiously avoided by the official up to this point. My helper then asked whether this was a matter for the personal testimony of the widow. The official assented. On being asked further what this affair had to do with Wu-ch'ang-t'ai, the mandarin admitted that Wu Ch'ang T'ai could not attest the document. He further said "If the widow says she gave it to the Church,

So be it

So be it, if to the Government, it must so remain. The helper then said that he had heard that Wu Ch'ang t'ai had been arrested; if it was not his affair was his arrest fair, and why had he been detained? The official said "Wu Ch'ang t'ai's name was written on the paper, and he had been detained to answer for the sister-in-law. He then asked where Wu Ch'ang t'ai was; and the official said he should be released on bail.

I then asked definitely whether the official would stamp the original document. He replied very vigorously that he would not until after he had investigated the widow.

Was it out of place to suppose that he had in mind a tortured expression of acceptance of the official view of the case.

I replied we had the "mark" of the widow upon the original paper. Will not that answer as sufficient witness of her wish and purpose? The reply was that nothing but the examination of the widow herself would now answer.

The official was willing to leave the matter in the hands of his superiors. He said with annoying reticence "the case is now out-

(6)

of my hands; What my superiors order I must do.
What your superiors order you must do. I
cannot disobey the Fu t'ai and the Tsung li yamen
You cannot disregard Mr. Holcombe's order."

I found I had gained the following points.
A definite refusal to sign the original document;
and the release of Wu ch'ang T'ai from custody.
I had in mind to inquire about the forced registry
of native Christians; but thought best to
end the interview.

The official followed me with over-
scrupulous courtesy to my cart and awaited
my being seated there.

I went to the inn and Wu ch'ang t'ai
in the course of an hour was released as
well as the three Ti fangs. They had awaited
the announcement of my arrival with great
suspense, having no other thought than
that of an awful scourging, and had already
bribed the "Master of Scourges" to bear on
lightly when they should be brought up.

I have carefully considered the
wisdom of sending for the widow Wu to
attest her own sign manual, and think
it would be unwise to do so. It would

(afford

afford the official another opportunity to conceal his forged note. It would needlessly alarm the poor woman whose sincerity in making the gift is attested by her "mark" upon the written agreement, by the testimony of her brother-in-law and friends, and by the word of Rev. A. H. Smith who had repeated witness of her purpose, and in whose presence the original deed and agreement were effected. While convinced that it would be unwise to call upon the widow to make her own statement before the Magistrate, I submit it to your judgment for approval.

I make haste to forward this statement of an ineffectual effort to comply with your instructions, in order that something further may be secured by yourself. Should your judgment deem it wise, before the impending season of the new year vacations. Aside from the judicial aspects of the case which seem grave enough, I would call attention to the hitherto unceasing effort to threaten and suborn the native Christians and the local deputies who are involved in this case. The Yamen rumors hold the

(George

scourge of fear over them all and are greedy of this opportunity to extort money.

Allow me to say that Lu Kuo chien is at present at Tung Cho and can attest to yourself personally his action in the case presented.

I am, etc,

(signd) Henry D. Porter.

Dr. Porter to Mr. Holcombe

January 28th, 1882.

Dear Sir:—

I regret to be obliged to address you again so soon upon the affair at Ti Ch'i. The Tē Cho official summoned the three men spoken of in my last— Wu Ch'ang Tai and the two Ti fangs, to appear yesterday morning. Wu Ch'ang Tai was of course not present, but the others were taken to Tē Cho to answer for the non appearance of the widow Wu. A messenger has come today to say that the official has retained these men in custody. He had the boldness to affirm to them that I and my two helpers had promised to produce Wu hsia shih (the widow) in four days. He was angry at her non appearance and remanded them to custody with the reminder that if the widow did not appear within another four days he should "hsün" them again. It is needless to remark that no reference whatever was made by me much less was a promise given with reference to the production of the widow

(Wu

Wu. The official urged upon the Ti fangs that he must report at once to his superiors and so must have the testimony of the widow.

May I not ask for an immediate and effective relief from the constant intimidation of our church members at Ti Chi by the official. The intimidation is fitly described in the Chinese phrase "The hammer beats the chisel and the chisel cuts the wood". I would respectfully request a more direct method of dealing with the case than that through the Governor of Shantung. Would it be proper to secure special instructions from the Foreign office, accompanied with your own official card, or would it be proper to ask for a "special messenger" from the Foreign Office who may secure for us a privilege already admitted as our due by the Peking officials.

I am. &c

(signed) N. D. Porter

2

Dr. Porter to Mr. Holcombe

February 2nd, 1882,

Dear Sir:—

My letter of January 28th reported the arrest of the two local constables of the village of Ti Chi, and expressed a fear that they would be punished by the official because of the non arrival of the widow Tho. A messenger from Tientsin containing your note to Rev. A.H. Smith reached me on Sunday morning. The necessity of some remonstrance against the course of the Mandarin seemed so great that it was decided to prepare a letter to his honor to be forwarded in lieu of a personal interview. I enclose the letter as prepared and transmitted. I sent with the letter a translation of your own note of Jany. 17th to Rev. A.H. Smith. I enclose a copy of the translation. I shall be glad to be informed if I have exceeded the bounds of propriety in the letter and in the translated extract, in addressing the Magistrate.

The letter was forwarded to Te Chs

Asst

but returned to me the following day by the bearer thereof, because the arrested men feared that the announcement of the sending Wu Ch'ang T'ai to Peking would involve their statement and lead to some punishment. I thought it best to go to Te Cho myself which I accordingly did on Wed. February 1st. The letter was handed in at the Yamen, with the result of the immediate release of the men arrested, the whole blame of their detention being thrust upon the underlings of the Office. They naturally smiled at the official aptness in diplomacy and hastened to discharge their prisoners. I awaited the promised reply of the official; as it was delayed, I returned last evening. I received today the reply, which is worded with great artifice and care denying that the men were in custody, and expressing surprise at the purpose of my letter. The official finally says the presence and examination of the widow, and the stamping of the deed is not at present within his jurisdiction. He is simply obeying and awaiting

awaiting orders. When such orders come he shall make no delay, and can not refuse to obey them.

I regret that the new year is so near at hand and fear continued delay. I shall hope to receive a reply to my last ere you receive this, but think it proper that you should be kept informed of the progress of the affair.

I am, etc.

(signed) D. H. Porter.

Mr. Porter to Mr. Holcombe,

February 14th, 1882

Dear Sir:—

I have the honor to report the receipt of your despatches of February 4th & 5th inst. They reached me Saturday eve. My preparations were made for returning to Tientsin on Monday. I have pursuant to instructions delayed and shall remain for the present.

I have in accordance with your wish called upon the Sub Prefect in person, and hasten to report the result of the interview.

Having presented your official card, I replied that I had received instructions to call upon the Sub Prefect, and ask for the registry of the original deed. The official immediately replied that this could not be done, inasmuch as he had received definite instructions from the Fu t'ai in accordance with which he had already sent messengers to Shen Chu to find the widow Niu Shih, and have her brought to Te Chu at her convenience. The order from the Fu T'ai included the injunction that when the widow arrived, the missionary was to be invited by the Sub Prefect to

(sit

sit with him in the examination. Inasmuch as the proposition made by yourself had taken form in the order from the Fu t'ai that the widow was to be examined in the presence of the missionary, it was of course unnecessary to state that as a condition. I merely emphasized the necessity of leaving her untrammeled in the giving of evidence. The official seemed especially desirous of assuring me that I was to be present with him in the examination. I still urged him to waive the examination of Mrs. Wu since she was old and could not travel easily in winter weather. He replied that she might not be able to come; if she were not able to appear, he would have a definite matter to report to Chi nan fu, and further that it was impossible to stamp the deeds now before the examination. Since he appeared to speak in good faith, and promised to inform me when he had heard from Shen Chu, I followed the spirit of your instruction and agreed to wait his report.

The order from the Fu t'ai was

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handed me, enjoining that he send to Shen Cho, and learn from the Magistrate there where Mrs. Wu was, and when she could appear. He thought the messenger would return in about three days. As he knows nothing about the village or the people of Ch'ang Sz ma, I am apprehensive that he may not find the widow. I shall send a messenger at once to Chang Sz ma to find out when Mrs. Wu can come, and shall hope to see that she goes with me to the Yamen.

Should the widow appear and be examined as proposed, the official informs me that he must report the result of the examination to the Tu tai before a final decision can be made and the deeds properly stamped. The continued delay may perhaps only serve to enable the official to escape blame for forcing a forged document upon us and reporting the same to head quarters.

I made inquiries into the issue of the order demanding examination of Christians and had a long conversation about that. The official of course pretended that his only

object

object was to prevent criminals from entering the Chuech for protection. He maintained that he had only friendly feelings which were steadily increasing under this prolonged acquaintance! I urge that his order was not in accord with the Treaty, that perhaps he did not know it as such, and that the effect of it was to intimidate since it said if Christians did not register they were necessarily criminals. I suggested a proclamation withdrawing that impression to which he assented. I would respectfully suggest that since the official has assented, the assent be enforced as you may think best. Without some such proclamation the moral effect of the order will be as if it had not been retracted. The official intimated that he had received instructions on that point.

I took liberty to ask for the reprimand of the two lictors who forced the Ti Pas to bribe them to inflict a slight punishment if Wen Ch'ang Tai and the others were ordered to be beaten. He insisted that his lictors should never demand such bribes.

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I suppose in view of the concessions of the mandarin you will not at present send a special envoy to enforce your view of justice. I send a messenger who will await your reply at Tientsin.

I am etc,

(signed) D. N. Porter

Despatch No. 65,
Enclosure 2.

8/1882.

Mr. Holcombe to Prince Kung.

February 3rd, 1882.

Y. I. H.:—

Upon the 3rd and 15th of November last I had the honor to call the attention of Y. I. H. and the Ministers of the Foreign Office to certain illegal and arbitrary interference on the part of the Sub Prefect of Te Cho, in the province of Shantung, with the missionary work being prosecuted within his jurisdiction by two American missionaries. This conduct on the part of the Sub Prefect consisted more particularly in forcing the alteration of a deed of gift by virtue of which a widow had donated a house and land, owned by her in the village of Ti Ch'i, for the purpose of a Chapel for the use of the Christian Church in the village; in ordering the constables and villagers within his jurisdiction to report to him the names of all persons who had, or intended to, become Christians - "in order that all such might be summoned "before him for rigid examination;" and

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in ordering the gentry and merchants to have no dealings or intercourse with the foreign missionaries or Christian Chinese,

In response Y. I. H. stated that instruction had been sent to the Sub Prefect that if the widow desired to donate her property for a village chapel, she had under the treaty a perfect right to do so and should not be interfered with. Subsequently the Ministers of the Foreign Office at a personal interview told me that the official had also been instructed to make no other or different register or examination of Christian Chinese within his territory than such as is required by law of all native residents; that, in general, native professors of the Christian faith were to be dealt with exactly as though they had remained adherents to the Buddhist or Taoist system of belief. This action in the premises was entirely satisfactory and indicated alike the liberality and just disposition of Y. I. H.

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Had the local authorities obeyed your instructions in the spirit in which they were issued, Y. D. H. and I would have been spared the necessity of further correspondence upon this subject,

But the more recent action of the Sub Prefect has been in direct violation of your instruction, and like his former course, in plain conflict with the terms of the treaty. The only point for him to discover was whether the widow really desired to donate her property for the purpose of a Christian chapel. This could easily have been accomplished. But what he did was to issue his warrant for the arrest of four Chinese, the warrant stating among other things, that "the Governor of "Shantung had approved the donation of "the property in question for a Government "free school", and that the persons named in the warrant were required to attest the deed of gift and sign the record. These four persons, though neither guilty nor accused of any crime whatever, were arrested and thrown into prison,

(where,

where, as a first step, they were obliged to bribe the Keepers in order to avoid a preliminary beating.

Mr. Porter, the missionary in charge of the work, upon hearing of this action of the Sub Prefect immediately went to Tê cho and had an interview with that officer who answered Mr. Porter's protest at his course by declaring that he was acting under instructions, and he handed the original despatch from the Governor to him, to Mr. Porter to read. But, curiously enough, the despatch in question simply stated that the Sub Prefect's earlier report that the widow wished to give her premises for a Government free school did not agree with what the Governor had received from the Foreign Office at Peking. The Sub Prefect was called upon to explain this discrepancy, and was told that if the widow were willing that the property be given for a Christian Chapel, he should stamp the deed accordingly. It thus becomes evident that the Sub Prefect in issuing his warrant for the arrest of four persons falsely quoted the Governor

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as using language which he had not used, and by this arrest was endeavoring by force and punishment to secure a forced attestation of the deed as changed by him. He was seeking to cover up his earlier illegal conduct by further acts of violence and wrong.

Y. I. K. assuredly will not expect the Government of the United States to pass such conduct on the part of the official in question in silence.

There can be no possible ground for doubt that the widow desired to give her property for a Christian Chapel, and that she had a legal right to make the gift. There is now in this city an American missionary, and in Tung Cho a Chinese teacher, who were present when the deed of gift was executed and who are able to testify that the gift was not only a free act, but was made without suggestion or advice from any one. The original deed of gift, bearing the signature of the widow and the impress of the seal of the tax collectorate of her district is now in my possession and

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has been shown to the Ministers of the Foreign Office. While there thus is abundant evidence to prove what the real purpose of the widow is in the premises, there still could be no valid objection to the making of such an inquiry by the Sub Prefect as would satisfy all reasonable doubt. But the conduct of that official has proved clearly that he does not need or desire to know what the purpose of the widow was, his sole purpose and determination being to thwart her plainly expressed and legitimate intention. Fortunately she is not now within his jurisdiction, or she would doubtless be languishing in prison. And others who have already suffered injustice in this matter have left Te Chs fearing that if they remain at home, they may be still further made the victims of the cruelty of this official.

I beg leave to submit most respectfully that in view of these facts it becomes the duty of Y. I. H. to take some immediate and vigorous measures to put a stop to this gross abuse of power by the Te Chs Sub Prefect, and to show to

him

him the danger of trifling with the orders of his superiors. He has already been plainly instructed in the case once by Y. I. H. and the Governor of Shantung, and has as plainly trifled with and violated your instructions. I can, if it becomes necessary despatch a representative of this Legation to Te Chō to deal with this question on the spot, but dislike to take this step for reasons which Y. I. H. will understand.

I beg leave to enclose herewith copies of the deed of gift, and sundry other papers, and request most earnestly that Y. I. H. will take immediate action to see that justice is done in this matter.

I have etc.

(signed) Chester Holcombe

Despatch No. 65.
Enclosure 3.

10/1882.

Prince Kung, Chief Secretary of State for foreign affairs, herewith makes a communication in reply.

I have had the honor to receive your communication of the 3rd inst. instant regarding the alleged illegal action of the Sub Prefect of Te Cho in the matter of the gift of a property by a Christian widow at Te Cho to be converted into a chapel, you sent me copies of the deed of gift and other documents which you had received from the Missionaries and requested me to take immediate action towards a settlement of this business.

I beg to say that I have forwarded copies of your correspondence to the Governor of Shantung who will in turn instruct the official concerned to effect a prompt settlement of this case in accordance with the terms of the Treaty. In addition to which I feel bound to send this acknowledgment of your despatch.

H. E. Chester Holcombe
etc. etc. etc. etc.
Peking, February 16th, 1882.

No. 66. Two Enclosures.

Legation of the United States.
Peking, February 21st, 1882

Chester Holcombe to
the Secretary of State.

PRINTED.
FOREIGN RELATIONS.
1882

Subject.

Necessity of regulations for the government of U. S. citizens in China.

Synopsis.

Forwards a copy of a British Order in Council, and urges the necessity of similar legislation on the part of the United States.

No. 66. Two Enclosures.

Legation of the United States,
Peking, February 21st, 1882.

Honorable F. J. Frelinghuysen,
Secretary of State.

Sir:—

I have the honor to forward herewith for the information of the
1/66. Department, a copy of an Order in Council issued by the Government of Great Britain, dated October 25th, 1881. as published in China under the authority of Sir Thomas Wade, the British Minister.

While there is much in this Order in Council which cannot fail to be of interest to the Department, I beg leave at the moment to call your attention to that portion of it,

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numbers 6. to 20. inclusive which authorizes Her Majesty's Minister in China to make Regulations "for the "peace, order, and good government "of British subjects resident in or "resorting to China".

The Department is well aware that at all of the open ports in China settlements of foreigners have grown up who are exclusively subject to the jurisdiction of their own authorities, and who directly or representatively control the immense and growing commerce between China and foreign countries. These settlements are invariably cosmopolitan in their character containing representatives of nearly every Russian nationality and subjects of every type of human government. It has been manifestly

necessary

necessary to devise some system under which the heterogeneous population could be governed, and due protection assured to the lives and property concerned.

This has been done by the establishment of quasi municipal organizations at the various ports to which have been delegated the powers ordinarily given to similar organizations at home, subject to the approval and general control of the Consular and Diplomatic Representatives interested.

The authority thus given, and under which taxes have been levied, suitable police regulations maintained, roads and streets been built and kept in order, and the health, convenience, and good order of the settlements generally conserved, has almost invariably been exercised with great discretion and

good

good judgment, and has rarely been called in question.

Cases have however arisen in which the legality of this entire system has been disputed. Notably, at Shanghai in the spring of 1881. Mr. Frank Reid, an American citizen, refused to pay a tax levied by the Municipal Council upon the ground that Congress alone could impose such an obligation upon him, and that the United States Minister had no power to make him in any way liable to the demands of such a body as the Municipal Council of Shanghai. The tax was recovered from Mr. Reid through a suit brought before our Consul General and by an execution levied on Mr. Reid's property. I enclose a copy

of

2/66 of Mr. Denny's decision.

Although the case ended in the manner described above, there is grave reason to fear that, could the defendant have taken an appeal to a Circuit Court of the United States, the decision of such higher Court — must have been rendered in his favor. And this in turn would have been followed by the downfall of the Municipal Governments at every port in China, through the refusal of the residents to pay the taxes by means of which such Governments can be supported.

There is in my opinion little room to doubt that, owing to the lack of appropriate legislation, — many things have in the past been done by the officers of our Government

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here which have been really extra legal, so to speak, that is to say not founded on any plain well defined statute. It is in the highest degree important that acts of this sort should cease. And it is on the other hand vitally important, in view of the large & and rapidly increasing population & and property interests in these foreign settlements in China, that ample & power, clearly defined and carefully guarded, should be vested in the proper Department of our Government to make and enforce suitable Regulations, & either singly & in concert with other Powers, for the control and government of American citizens resident in China.

I beg therefore to call your & earnest attention to this subject, and to suggest, in default of a better plan, (whether

whether such Congressional action may not be secured as will give to the Representative of the United States in China, subject to the approval of the President, power similar to that conferred upon the British Minister in China by the Order in Council enclosed.

There is the more immediate occasion for the consideration of this subject, as the Diplomatic Body here has now under discussion a new series of Municipal Regulations for Shanghai which have been submitted to us by our Consuls, and which it will be my duty to lay before the Department at an early moment.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant

Chester Holcombe

Enclosures

Enclosures

1. British Order in Council of October 25th, 1881.
2. Judgment in Municipal Council versus ~~Frank~~ Reid.

Mem. The order in Council above to be sent to the printer with the letter to Mr Wrudem of Ap. 29 - 1882

It is printed on page 60 of Senate Misc. Doc. No 89 47th Cong 1st Session

Despatch No. 66.
Enclosure 2.

U.S. COURT FOR THE CONSULAR DISTRICT OF SHANGHAI.

Shanghai, 20th May, 1881.

Before Judge DENNY.

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL *v.* F. REID.

In this case which was heard last Saturday, his Honour gave judgment this morning as follows:—

The Municipal Council for the Foreign Community of Shanghai North of the Yang-king-pang by their Secretary bring suit against Frank Reid, a citizen of the U.S., to recover Taels 10 and cents 72 as taxes alleged to be due from the Defendant as a householder within the said Municipality, for the last quarter of 1880, for the month of March 1881, and for all of the second quarter of this year. While the Defendant denies the material allegations of the complaint, yet from the evidence adduced upon the trial, it appears that these taxes were charged against him in the usual way, and in accordance with the Land Regulations which have hitherto governed in such cases, and that payment has been requested by Plaintiffs and refused. The Defendant denies that the Plaintiffs are a legally constituted body, and that for this reason he should not be taxed in any way upon their order for municipal purposes or otherwise; that he is a citizen of the United States, and as such, only the Congress of his Government can constitutionally impose such obligations upon him. Anwering the first objection raised, the Plaintiffs, by their Counsel, rely for the legality of their action upon the Land Regulations of the Settlement, submitted to the Foreign Ministers at Peking and by them approved September 24th, 1869, and which went into effect the beginning of the following year. The Ministers of the Treaty Powers approving the Regulations refered to, were those of the U.S. of America, Great Britain, France, Russia, and the North German Confederation. But the Defendant disputes the authority of the U.S. Minister, by that act, to make him in any way liable to the demands of such a body as the Municipal Council of Shanghai.

The United States Minister to China is the superior officer of this Consulate General, judicially as well as diplomatically, and whatever the result might be if the law bearing upon a suit of this nature was strictly construed, it is a fact, of which the Court must take judicial notice, that the Regulations alluded to were approved by the Minister for the United States acting as he believed within the scope of his Ministerial authority, and which action has been approved by the Executive Department of his Government. Not only this, but for eleven years the validity of these Regulations has been maintained and enforced by this Court. This, if there were no other reasons, would cause me to at least hesitate before reversing its decisions in this behalf in any ordinary case now. In the next place, the Defendant claims too much for his citizenship, when he says that only the State of New York of which he is a resident and the United States Congress have a right to levy taxes on him; for an interpretation so broad would exempt him from all taxation wherever he may choose to go outside of the United States. Neither does the Defendant make that distinction which must be made when considering the rights and duties of a citizen at home, and those rights and duties as a permanent or temporary resident of China. Within the United States, he is governed by the laws of the State wherein he resides, and by the general laws of Congress. This is not the case, however, in China; for the laws of a State can have no bearing in protecting his rights here, or redressing his wrongs; while those of Congress are only special in their application. The right to live in, and pursue the various business callings in this Empire is secured to citizens of the United States by treaty stipulations, and for the purpose of giving force and effect to those stipulations, Congress, by special Act, has established Ministerial and Consular Courts, with both diplomatic and judicial powers, the latter being in some respects extraordinary. Within the United States, a citizen cannot be tried for the commission of a felony unless he has first been indicted by a grand jury regularly drawn. And then he can only be tried upon such indictment by a jury of his peers, while in China he is denied both. So, in cases at law, in the United States, he is entitled to have his civil rights passed upon by a jury. This privilege he is denied here. There, he has the right of appeal. Here this right can only be claimed in certain cases. This distinction is not referred to with the view to questioning the wisdom of it, but simply to show that it does exist. Again, United States vessels visiting the different ports of China are entitled to have the services of pilots to take them safely in and out of port, but there is nothing said in the Treaty as to the manner of choosing them or of what nationality they shall be. This, however, has been provided for by the Chinese authorities, acting in conjunction with the representatives of the Treaty powers; neither is there anything said in the Treaty of the United States about a tax as a license fee for being protected in this privilege, yet such a tax is demanded by the Chinese authorities and properly collected from American citizens who are engaged in that business here. It is but a legitimate outgrowth of Treaty stipulations with this Government. The same may be claimed with greater force for the establishment and maintainance of the Municipal Government for the foreign Settlement of Shanghai. The object sought by foreign governments in concluding treaties with China was to obtain commercial advantages and the importance and value of the advantages resulting therefrom which have for their centre, the port of Shanghai, already attest the wisdom of such agreements. So important have these interests become, that at least 2,500 foreigners of different nationalities have been drawn here to stimulate and protect them. The magnitude and nature of these interests and the number of foreigners residing here, would render it almost impossible for the residents to enjoy all of the privileges conceded to them by the Treaties without the aid of a recognised Municipality. For on account of the defects in the natural advantages of the Port, residents occupying houses anywhere within the business portion of the Settlement would continually suffer loss and great inconvenience, if these defects were not cured by local legislation; and so long as persons choose to reside within these improved boundaries and continue to enjoy the advantages resulting from a local government which seems to be so well administered as this, it is but just that they should pay an equitable proportion of the taxes necessary for such purposes. Judgment for plaintiffs as prayed for with costs.

(Signed) O. N. DENNY,
Consul-General, Acting Judicially.

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